

BOOK EXCERPT **OUTGROWING THE EARTH LESTER R. BROWN** 

IN HIS OWN WORDS A GHANAIAN FARMER **TELLS OF TRANSFORMATION** 

#### Dear Friends ...

By Jo Luck President and CEO

**Practical** solutions improve our daily lives, and being able to share what we have gives us the gift of community.

he cornerstone of Passing on the Gift is one of the most important parts of Heifer International's work. It is a practical solution that expands and extends a project's benefits throughout a community, and helps draw a community together in the process. And as project participants pass along offspring of their animals to neighbors and community members, something remarkable happens. For the first time, people who have struggled all their lives to provide for themselves and their families have enough to help others. Even more valuable, perhaps, than a goat or a sheep is the luxury of being able to give.

In this issue of World Ark, you will find a beautiful and moving essay by acclaimed author and Heifer supporter Barbara Kingsolver, who traveled to Peru with a Study Tour and attended a passing-on-

> ences in Peru and with the Heifer project participants she met eloquently illustrates the profound meaning that this ceremony holds for participants and guests alike.

> > Also in this issue, Kawsi Bodua, a project participant in Ghana, tells in his own words the story of his village

and how the villagers' lives have changed since they began working with Heifer several years ago. Bodua is a farmer whose insight and thoughtfulness have made him a leader and spokesperson for his community; recently, Bodua was asked by Heifer Ghana staff to contribute to discussions about the progress of the country's programs.

When his village began work with Heifer, its only source of protein was an overfished lake, and the villagers' soil was depleted of nutrients. As Bodua notes, a stream that they relied on for drinking water and wash water had dried up when they cut nearby trees for firewood. Through trainings provided by Heifer, the villagers learned how vegetation sends rainwater underground, keeping streams and springs fed. They also learned how to build more fuel-efficient stoves, to help preserve local foliage. And they planted hundreds of trees, renewing the areas that had been stripped of their greenery.

Perhaps the most wonderful part of Bodua's story, however, is how his group's work with Heifer galvanized his village, inspiring villagers to go further, planting money-making trees like mangoes, and working together for the good of the entire community. Through passing on the gift, he tells us, now nearly everyone in his village has animals or will be receiving animals soon, and the standard of living has dramatically improved. Even surrounding villages have taken notice of his village's success, and visit to find out what they can learn.

As Bodua and Kingsolver's stories tell us, sharing is one of the greatest privileges. Practical solutions improve our daily lives, and being able to share what we have gives us the gift of community. As both Kingsolver and Bodua have passed their gifts on to us, it is my hope that you and I continue to pass on our gifts to others.



# PREVIEW

**WORLD ARK** 

July/August 2005

To trust that our lives have meaning, every one of us needs to effect some tangible change in the world. ??

-Barbara Kingsolver, from Not Just to Get, But to Give









#### Not Just to Get, But to Give 6

#### By Barbara Kingsolver

The bestselling author of *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Small Wonder* and *Last Stand: America's Virgin Lands* visits Heifer projects in Peru and discovers that "a simple idea, put into practice, becomes magic."

#### In His Own Words 16

Ghana project participant Kawsi Bodua tells the remarkable story of his community's work with Heifer: "We have passed on the gift to so many people. That is why we have grown."

#### From Dirt to Dust 14

#### By Lester R. Brown

An excerpt from his new book, *Outgrowing the Earth: The Food Security Challenge in an Age of Falling Water Tables and Rising Temperatures*, about the fragile future of our food supply.

#### Clean Water Provides Cure 32

In Thai villages, sometimes the simplest improvements lead to the greatest results.

#### "Grandma's Endowment" 42

Remembering loved ones who have made a difference can mean a future for others.

#### A Seat at the Table 44

#### **Bv Linda Elswick**

Thirteen years after the historic Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a meeting participant remembers her introduction to peoplecentered development.

**Cover:** Faustino Condori Callosani holds a sheaf of grass near Lake Titicaca in Peru.

Photo by Darcy Kiefel, Heifer International photojournalist.

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

Letters/Feedback From Our Readers 2

For the Record 4

World Ark Market 20

**Heifer Spirit** Quilts on Parade; Concerts to End Hunger 28

**Heifer Bulletin** Efrain's Legacy, Ten Years Later 32

**Mixed Media** Irreverent Environmentalism; Poetry in Tanzania 36

Calendar of Events 40

Travel With a Purpose 41

www.heifer.org

July /August 2005 | WORLD ARK

#### **Working for Equity**

As an NGO somewhat new to familiarity with Heifer yet working on many similar issues, I was happy to see the focus on women, particularly the article on gender equity by Martha Hirpa (March/April, 2005).

I would like to suggest that in dealing with such issues as gender equity, the organization place a stronger emphasis on systems analysis. Poverty, in a systems frame, is not simply a number of people living in bereft conditions but is structurally embedded in the various sinews of societies, sustained by other systems such as the current global economic system and systems of male dominance.

In such a frame, one must go further than the good questions posed, such as "Who is hungry and why?" One must begin to ask, "Who benefits from the impoverishment of women and girls?" or "Who benefits when rights are denied?" Not only does "discrimination create persistent inequality," but the very foundations of political, social, economic and legal arrangements perpetuate discrimination.

This is not mere semantics. It has implications. The solutions pointed to in the article are good but rather general. When one adds a full systems analysis, the solution can be specific and crosscutting, such as, for example, the seven points presented recently at the United Nations by Geeta Rao Gupta [president of the International Center for Research on Women]:

- Strengthen post-primary education for girls.
- Guarantee women sexual and reproductive health rights.
- Improve infrastructure and technology to reduce the time burdens of

girls' and women's work.

- Guarantee women and girls property and inheritance rights.
- Eliminate gender inequality in unemployment.
- Increase women's seats in governmental bodies.
- · Combat violence against women.

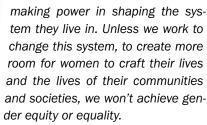
Such points cross boundaries to include the development agency as well as all systems touching the lives of those involved. Then, within proven methodologies of grassroots participation and local community decision-making, equity and mainstreaming will be realized, and women will attain equality though the circumstances and opportunities of their lives. And the very structures of relationships in society will be transformed.

Clare Nolan
Congregation of the Sisters of the
Good Shepherd
New York

Martha Hirpa, director of Heifer International's Gender Equity Program, answers:

First of all, we appreciate your interest in our work, and we thank you very much for taking time to give us your feedback.

I very much agree with you that gender issues need fundamental, structural and systematic analysis to change. One major reason why most women end up in impoverished situations is because of lack of decision-



However, we have to recognize that this is a very complex issue that has been built over centuries, and we cannot solve it all at once. Instead, we operate in a certain framework to focus on priorities within our reach. Heifer's work is guided by the reality on the ground. We begin with the kind of question you referred to—"Who is hungry and why?" Without asking those questions, I don't think it is possible to get into the reasons—one of which is obviously the system.

Heifer's gender equity work is focused on four different areas that are crucial to poverty alleviation: equitable sharing of resources, benefits, work and, above all, equitable sharing of decision-making.

One of the areas Heifer has worked on and has shown tremendous progress in is the right to own and to inherit resources. In many countries we work in, Heifer's program policies on animal ownership have been revised with full understanding of the impact of cultural traditions on women's societal positions. Now, families (men, women, girls and boys) are made recipients of animals and the benefits of Passing on the Gift, instead of just men. These changes are the result of the "who" and "why" questions. And this is just an example—our approach to gender equity is as diverse as the cultures and systems we work in.

Again, thank you for your interest in gender equity and equality in general, and in Heifer's work in particular.

2 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK www.heifer.org

#### **Worth Noting**

In your March/April issue, the Gender Equity issue, there is a picture of a woman preparing chicha. Be careful—chicha is an alcoholic drink, powerful and not very tasty to American drinkers!

Tried it in Peru and never again!

W.A. Van Engel Gloucester Point, Va.

Editor's Note: Thanks for the clarification. Our project participants tell us that chicha can be either alcoholic or non-alcoholic, depending on how it is prepared. So it is good to know that if you are offered chicha, you might be getting an alcoholic drink.

#### **Bees, Trees and Toys**

We wanted to take a moment to thank all of you at Heifer for all you do and for making Adira's 5th birthday special. After seeing "The Promise," Adira decided she wanted to give children bees. She has an outgoing personality and a lot of friends so we invited them all to a gymnastics party at the Y. Instead of gifts Adira invited her friends to donate to Heifer. We made a mural as a family with a "tree of life" and lots of bees buzzing!

Adira's brother Isaiah (age 8) said, "Kids need toys, too, so let's add



some Pokemon." We titled the mural "Bees, Trees and Pokemon, Please!" Adira's teachers heard about all this and dedicated "circle time" to teaching about Heifer's projects. They were discussing food and cook-

ing and it fit in perfectly. Many parents were thrilled by the idea of doing something good for the world instead of getting more plastic toys.

Adira was really happy at the end of the day. Tired and full of cake, she said, "Mommy, I'm glad Beatrice got a new dress. When can I see the bees my friends gave to the children?" I wish we could all go on a trip together to meet Heifer families! Thanks again.

The Tharan Family Berkeley, Calif.

**World Ark** welcomes comment from readers. All letters will be considered for publication; please include a telephone number, city and state so that we may confirm authorship. Heifer International reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar, spelling and space.



Some European cities, like London, have begun charging a "congestion tax" on vehicles traveling into the city to offset the costs of pollution and reduce traffic in the city center. Would you be in favor of a similar tax in the more congested urban areas of the United States?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Send or e-mail your answers, plus any additional comments you wish to make, to the address in the box at right.



PRESIDENT/CEO

Jo Luck

WerldArk

1015 Louisiana St. Little Rock, AR/USA 72202 E-mail: worldark@heifer.org

**PUBLISHER** 

Tom Peterson

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Michael Haddigan

**EDITOR** 

Jan Cottingham

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lauren Wilcox

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**Grace Domagala-Zobkov

WRITER

Sherri Nelson

CREATIVE SERVICES MANAGER

Marleen New

Heifer International publishes World Ark bimonthly for donors and friends. Heifer has helped millions of impoverished families worldwide become more self-reliant through the gift of livestock and training in their care. A nonprofit organization rooted in the Christian tradition, Heifer works for the dignity and well-being of all people.

Heifer is a member of InterAction. Federal employees may designate gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign by writing in #0315. Heifer International is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and gifts to Heifer are tax deductible and are used as designated until current needs of those projects are met. Further gifts are applied to similar projects so that gifts begin helping people immediately.

# Hunger &c Health

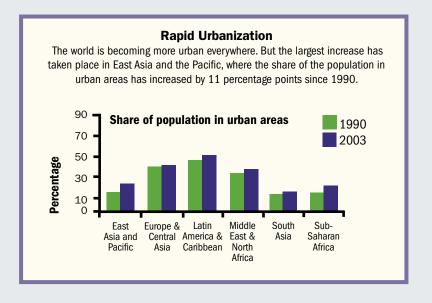
Preschool and school-aged children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, in addition to behavior problems, than children with no hunger, World Hunger Year says, citing an article, "Hunger: Its Impact on Children's Health and Mental Health," in the journal *Pediatrics*.

In addition, children whose growth has been stunted because of malnutrition "score significantly lower on math and language achievement tests than do well-nourished children," WHY says.



#### By the Numbers

In the United States, the poorest 10 percent of the population holds 1.9 percent of the nation's wealth, while the richest 10 percent has 29.9 percent, according to the World Bank.



# Better Than Superman

It's a bird! It's a plane! ... Wait, no, it's an ivory-billed woodpecker! Such was the nature of the joyous hoopla surrounding the announcement in April that the ivory-billed woodpecker is not—at least yet—extinct. Evidence gathered that indicates the wild-eyed, red-crested bird still lives prompted a news conference by no less than Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, who announced a multimillion-dollar effort to ensure the bird's survival.

Researchers found the bird in the eastern Arkansas woods after a lengthy and expensive search. The last confirmed sighting of the ivory-bill occurred 60 years ago. Thousands of news outlets reported on the discovery and on the people around the world who hopped aboard jets to travel to the bird's habitat in the hope of glimpsing the creature.

"It is a landmark rediscovery," said Scott Simon, director of the Nature Conservancy's Arkansas chapter. "Finding the ivory-bill in Arkansas validates decades of great conservation work and represents an incredible story of hope for the future."

| WORLD ARK | www.heifer.org

## **Polio Progress**

Polio cases worldwide have fallen by more than 99 percent since 1988, the World Health Organization says, from an estimated 350,000 cases in 1988 to 1,919 reported cases in 2002. The disease is now found only in parts of Africa and south Asia. Despite this progress, reported cases of polio rose from 483 in 2001 to 1,919 in 2002 because of an epidemic in India and a rise in cases in Nigeria.



# **Business**Is Blooming

The Organic Trade Association reports that U.S. sales of organic flowers rose 52 percent in 2003, to \$8 million. Yet the organic flower market remains but a bud compared with the total of all flower and plant sales in the country-an estimated \$19.5 billion annually. Almost 70 percent of cut flowers sold in the United States are imported. Advocates say that organic flowers—those grown without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides—are both better for the environment and better for the workers who grow and process them. Most of those workers are young women in Central and South America.

"Anticipate charity by preventing poverty; assist the reduced fellowman, either by a considerable gift, or a sum of money, or by teaching him a trade, or by putting him in the way of business, so that he may earn an honest livelihood, and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for charity. This is the highest step and the summit of charity's golden ladder."

-Maimonides, b. 1135

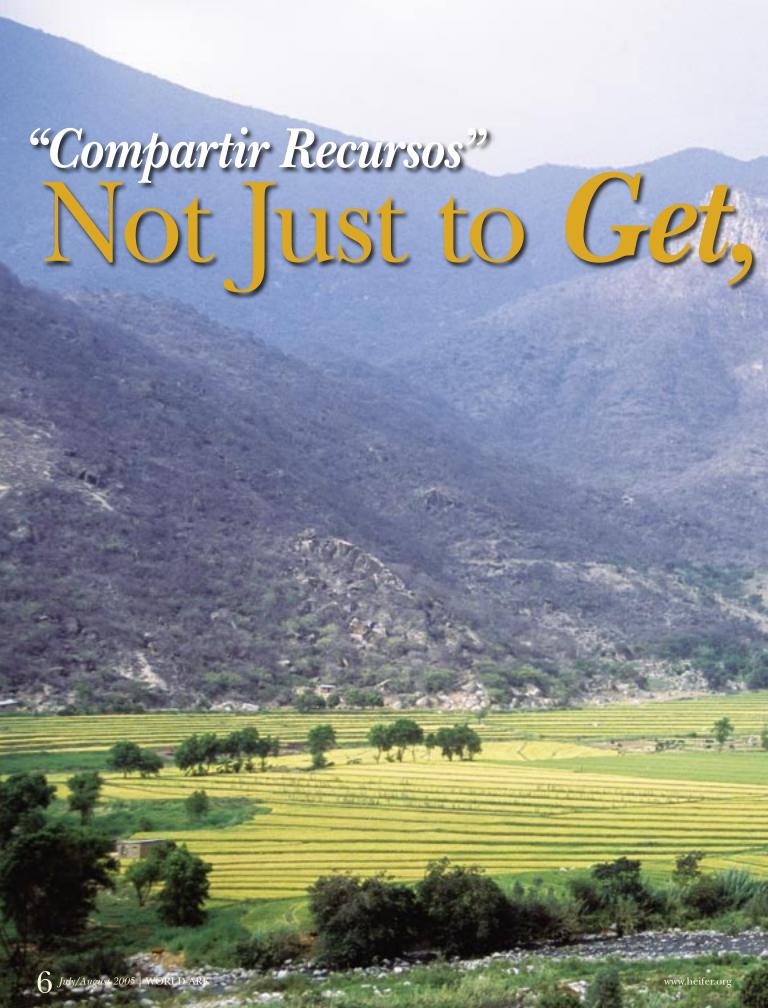
# **Hurry Up and Wait**

It's not your imagination—traffic is getting worse. That's according to a study by the Texas Transportation Institute, which found that congestion cost motorists 79 million more hours in 2003 than in 2002 and 69 million more gallons of fuel. The year 2003 saw 3.7 billion hours of delay and 2.3 billion gallons of wasted fuel for a cost of more than \$63 billion.

In 51 cities in the United States, the average motorist was delayed by at least 20 hours a year by rush-hour traffic. The cities include Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Boston and Chicago but also smaller urban centers, such as Honolulu, Virginia Beach, Va., Omaha, Neb., and Colorado Springs, Colo.

Roads aren't being built fast enough to carry all the people who now drive on them, according to the Transportation Development Foundation, which supports transportation construction. The foundation says that since 1982, the number of vehicle miles traveled has risen 74 percent, but only 6 percent more miles of roads have been built.





# But to Give

Photos by Steven Hopp and Darcy Kiefel

# By Barbara Kingsolver

I'd imagined them since I was a child:
white, sharp points laid row upon row, like the
teeth of a shark yawning at the sky. Crowned
with permanent ice, the mountains stand
with their feet in green, humid tropics on the
Amazonian side, while their western flanks
include some of the driest deserts in the world.
Peru is a nation of surprises, where an intrepid
traveler with light baggage may encounter some
90 of the world's 125 classified ecotypes.



ur plane carried just this kind of traveler-a dozen Heifer International devotees from the United States who'd come to bear witness to the works we had supported for years with our hearts and wallets. We would see projects as diverse as Peru, from the dizzying altitude of Cuzco (where we'd find out "dizzying" is not a metaphor), down to some of the world's most marginal inhabited lands in the coastal deserts. I had been told that just a few dollars' worth of assistance wisely spent, in these harsh places, can make the difference between famine and survival. This is what I came to see for myself.

When our plane touched down in a dust-covered coastal town, I shed my jacket in the heat and struggled to recall what month this was: November. Peru's Southern-Hemisphere calendars would call it spring,

but here in Piura—just a few degrees south of the equator—the season is nearly always just called dry. We emerged from the plane into a town that felt profoundly reminiscent of the Arizona-Mexico border, where I lived for many years. In the skin-prickling aridity I felt strangely at home—doubly so as I chatted in Spanish with Fidel Calle Calle, a staff member from Piura's Heifer office who picked us up.

As we passed through the city I was struck by another familiar sight—mesquite trees, old and enormous, shading the benches of the town square. They're different from Arizona's mesquites but have the same flat-topped aspect and dangling bean-like pods. These were city specimens, painted white up to their waistlines like gentlemen in golf pants. Beyond the hopeful, spruced-up little park, Piura's crumbling adobe structures began to betray the truth—this is

mostly a poor town with desperate outskirts unraveling in every direction.

We crossed the Rio Piura, a scant trickle over bone-white stones in a broad riverbed. The rainy season, technically, is January to March but many years pass with no rain at all. Every few years El Niño revs up a good head of steam and drops some moisture. It's good for the land—the trees grow then, Fidel explained. This year the prediction was for medium rains. Given the parched state of everything in sight, any moisture here would touch down as a miracle.

At our hotel we changed into farm clothes, climbed as a group into several pickup trucks and barreled out of the city. Fidel steered us skillfully around threewheeled moto-taxis and crowds of people pursuing the business of their days, in endless districts of houses built as minimally as any I've ever seen. Connected one to the next like flimsy condominiums, running in long banks beside the road, the shops and residences were all made of crisp-looking, leafy dry bamboo cut from the riverbanks. The walls looked as substantial as a grass skirt, with roofs even more provisional. Of course, with no rain or cold to keep out, a structure that offers shade and privacy is presumably good enough.

The office's pickup was equipped with what we called in my childhood "4-60 airconditioning" (roll down all four windows and hit the gas). We inhaled the day in hot gulps. Dogs lay like rocks in the road; donkey carts passed by piled high with cut corn. The houses thinned out, then gave over to sparse mesquite forest. Between stretches of dry forest lay flat, white-crusted fields-former rice fields, Fidel explained, abandoned after years of being irrigated and fertilized until the land could bear no more insult. Floodirrigation evaporates quickly in this climate, leaving behind dissolved mineral salts that accumulate year upon year until the soil is ruined, too salty to support life.

We'd passed into a region of abandoned fields where the white, salt-crusted land



looked strangely like tundra. Here and there a corn monoculture rattled crisply in the heat, evidence that some farmers were still trying. We drove up onto a long dike that had been built to hold the river away from houses and farms, in those unimaginable times when there might be too much rain. We bumped along for some dusty miles on the narrow road that topped the high dike, looking down on the desolate land, until we zoomed past a startling green oasis. Fidel stopped abruptly, executed a hair-raising turnaround atop the dike, and delivered us back to where a broad-shouldered farmer waved us down with a smile.

This was Julio Chero, farmer of six acres and leader of a community of 25 or so families who are living in an experiment. Julio introduced us to his family and welcomed us into the shade of the green compound. His family's home is simple, no more substantial structurally than any we'd seen earlier, but the sheltering microclimate surrounding it offered tangible relief from the desolation of this countryside. This small farm was the first thing we'd encountered that felt like shelter.

Julio Chero stands among his thriving crops (opposite).

Barbara Kingsolver talks with Julio (above).

"Diversifying our crops is not just better for the land, it's better for us," Julio explained. "Our family eats more different kinds of food than we did before, more protein especially: meat twice a week, and beans year-round."



Vegetation (above) takes root in the arid ground.

A group of young drummers (opposite) escorts visitors to the Passing on the Gift ceremony. From inside a bamboo enclosure we heard the soft bleating of sheep. Heifer had given him five. Now he has 25, he's sold a good many, and of course he has passed on the gift. But more important to him than the gift of the sheep, he says, has been the gift of knowledge that Heifer also brought this community. Three agricultural workers from the Heifer office who'd come out with us greeted the family companionably.

"These men taught me everything about what you see here," Julio said with his arm around one of Heifer's staff agronomists. They come out daily to work with farmers, teaching them crop diversification, rotation, permaculture, composting and organic pest management. Julio eagerly waved us into his fields to show us how he has incorporated these ideas. We walked among rows of thriving crops: five kinds of beans, which he rotates, always following corn with a legume to replenish the soil's nitrogen. Mango, avocado, banana and guayanaba trees formed shady hedgerows between the fields.

"Diversifying our crops is not just better for the land, it's better for us," Julio explained. "Our family eats more different kinds of food than we did before, more protein especially: meat twice a week, and beans year-round." At the end of a row we stopped to gaze at the desolate field beyond Julio's: empty, salinized land, to all appearances the end of the world. But no, Julio insisted, not the end—even such damaged land can be recovered, with time and effort. His fields were like that too, when the project began.

The new crop techniques are directed

toward improving rather than further depleting the soil. Julio plows in sheep manure and fallen leaves before planting, using much less chemical fertilizer than before, to produce more corn. For pest control he grinds up a pungent weed. "This one here," he said, yanking it up by the roots and passing it around for us to examine, a sticky aster with a scent of marigolds. He ferments the macerated plant material and sprays it on his corn, effectively controlling earworms without killing the soil with more chemicals. Everything is recycled. Even the new, Heifer-built cement stove in the family's outdoor kitchen is part of the cycle; they cook their food with corncobs, rather than using up the scant mesquite forest by cutting firewood.

The difference between Julio's soil and his neighbor's was astonishing to the eye, and palpable when I picked up a handful. It was easy to see why Julio had become a community leader, putting to use the knowledge he receives from Heifer's Piurabased consultants and passing it on to other project participants. If I'd come here to be made a believer, I realized, I needn't travel farther. Parrots chattered from deep in the hedgerows where limbs were decorated with the round mud nests of the Chilolo bird. A pygmy owl kept a silent watch for rodents in the cornrows. This diversified farm stood as an emerald island of life among the used-up monoculture fields surrounding it. We were witnessing something beyond sustainability—this was resurrection.

Julio deflected our praise. "I didn't invent anything here," he said. "Our fathers did these things. The land was all they had, and things like manure and biological controls. They saved seeds and had improvement plots to strengthen their seed lines. They knew farming. We came to do it another way, which we thought would be easier, relying on things we could buy, or chemicals supplied by the government—if we could get them. That's what hurt the land. Now we're learning to rely on ourselves again."



ompartir recursos—"Passing on the Gift" is an event that draws people in from miles around. We were invited too, to watch the ceremony scheduled that afternoon in a small village in Baja Piura. Our Heifer truck pulled up beside the only block structure in town: "Health Center" it said on the front; signs on the sides advocated family planning, while dozens of schoolchildren spilled out the back. In the village's dusty center, a hand-lettered banner decorated a pavilion made of branches, and a white-shirted band of schoolboys with drums and trombones were tuning up.

As I stepped out of the truck it crossed my mind that we'd happened onto the arrival of some local celebrity. Then I read the banner—*Bienvenidos Familia Heifer*—and realized the celebrity was us. A cheer went up from the crowd as the boys with drums escorted us to the pavilion. A row of first-graders gamely held up pink paper hearts,

each one lettered with one of our names.

I wondered what we must look like to these children—we U.S. travelers in our sunglasses, sneakers and relatively dressed-down (but by local standards expensive) khaki pants and T-shirts. Our group ranged in age from 70-something down to my 8-year-old daughter Lily, each of us having come to learn in our own way what our support for Heifer International really means in a big, parti-colored world. Walking toward the sunbronzed faces of a hundred or so expectant villagers, I had a shaky moment in which I wondered if I could possibly be what they

I can't fathom how it feels to abate a child's malnutrition, rather than just everyday hunger. So I stretch my mind to imagine it and contribute what I can to the far-reaching projects of Heifer International. Now that I've been on a Study Tour, I can verify that those happy images are true.



expected me to be. I scanned the row of kids for the paper heart that said "Barbara," and my shy moment passed. I bent down to kiss the shrinking violet of a schoolboy who had the task of greeting me. They expected nothing of us here, today, beyond a symbolic acceptance of a gratitude as wide as a white desert sky. Heifer has changed this village. They wanted to show us how.

We took our seats on a long bench in the shade of an open shelter built out of sticks and branches. The festivities began: first, the marinera, a local dance interpreted by a teenaged girl—barefoot and lithe in a long black skirt and yellow ruffled blouse—and boy, dignified beyond his years in boots and hat, waving a white kerchief. To the recorded music from a battery-powered cassette player they moved sinuously and precisely, circling and raising their chins together like mating cranes. It was a breathtaking gift, a moment

of beauty from this place to take home with us. Next came singing and a morality pageant about responsible behavior. The crowd laughed at the schoolkids' antics but also began to buzz with anticipation. We weren't the only ones who'd come a long way for this occasion. The crowd around us suddenly felt enormous as more and more people arrived from other villages to witness the event they've all heard about: compartir recursos!

A simple idea, put into practice, becomes magic. On this day, some 20 families that had received sheep or goats through the Heifer project were going to share the offspring of these animals with 20 other families. The village had agreed upon a list of people who were most in need-but there were not enough animals, so 20 recipients' names had been drawn by lottery. The selected beneficiaries now lined up against a wall at one side of a large corral. Out of sight, sheep and goats bleated behind a fence as their owners prepared them for the ceremony. As the crowd assembled I walked over to a tiny widow dressed in black who was soon to receive the gift.

"Will these be the first animals you've ever owned?" I asked her in Spanish, hoping my question would not insult her, if the answer was no.

She leveled me with a flat gaze. "Of course," she said. "I've never owned anything. I'm poor."

I gulped, accepting an utterly indisputable definition of "poor." I studied her face, realizing that I'd received the impression

I wondered what we must look like to these children—we U.S. travelers in our sunglasses, sneakers and relatively dressed-down (but by local standards expensive) khaki pants and T-shirts. Our group ranged in age from 70-something down to my 8-year-old daughter Lily, each of us having come to learn in our own way what our support for Heifer International really means in a big, parti-colored world.

"elderly" only from her clothes and demeanor. Her skin had endured a lot more sun than mine, and her hands, undoubtedly, more hard work, but she might have been about my age. I retreated to what every mother considers safe territory and asked, "Do you have children?"

"Six sons," she replied. Or sons and daughters, possibly—in Spanish the noun for a mixed group is masculine. I looked around for some of these sons or daughters. For an occasion this important it seemed they ought to be here, but this woman stood alone.

"Are they here?" I asked.

"They're all dead," she answered, again

without much emotion, and once again I adjusted my mental notion of small talk.

"I'm sorry," I said. She nodded curtly. Her emotions in this moment were surely too large to discuss with a stranger. What was about to take place was not, for this woman, any sort of sentimental pageant. It was survival.

We stood together silently then, listening to the subdued bleating on the other side of the corral where animals were being shepherded by their handlers toward new ownership. I tried to imagine this woman's sense of who those shepherds were, over there, and what she must be feeling toward them: gratitude, of course, and perhaps

Farmers prepare to Pass on the Gift (below).

Children welcome visitors to their village (opposite).





A girl in traditional finery holds her chicks closely at the Passing on the Gift ceremony.

some degree of awe. These neighbors were now benefactors, people who knew new things—animal husbandry, the luxury of household provision and perhaps most amazingly, the prosperity of having something to give away.

I wondered how this woman's life would change. Soon, perhaps already as I write these words, she'll have milk, manure for a garden, eventually meat to eat or sell. In a few years she will have something else. From one flat word, poor, her self-portrait will grow more complex as it

comes to include the words *compartir recursos*, a ritual whose importance derives not just from the receiving, but also the giving. With luck and health, she will live to stand on the other side of a ceremony like this one.

Suddenly dust flew and the corral filled with the noise of hooves, shouts and laughter. Eager animals pulled their handlers across the divide. Tether ropes wound up into knots as the skittish animals were handed across. A few men embraced, and several more wiped tears from their faces. Some members of our visiting group took pictures. For my own part, I could only watch and try to understand the depth of human transformation that lay behind the simple act of a tether rope changing hands.

Since the day I first saw a colorful Heifer brochure promising that my gift of a flock of chicks or a goat could change someone's life, I've believed that promise in an abstract way. Each time I wrote a check or volunteered, I pictured kids gathering eggs or a boy waving a branch at a water buffalo, driving it toward the plow. I imagined mothers milking goats and making cheese, preparing rich white protein to feed their children. I can relate—some of my own deepest satisfactions come from the rituals of feeding my family. But we've never known starvation, so I can't fathom how it feels to abate a child's malnutrition, rather than just everyday hunger. So I stretch my mind to imagine it and contribute what I can to the far-reaching projects of Heifer International.

As the crowd assembled I walked over to a tiny widow dressed in black who was soon to receive the gift.
"Will these be the first animals you've ever owned?" I asked her in Spanish, hoping my question would not insult her, if the answer was no.
She leveled me with a flat gaze.
"Of course," she said. "I've never owned anything. I'm poor."

Now that I've been on a Study Tour, I can verify that those happy images are true. High in the Peruvian Andes we saw women grinning from ear to ear as they received baby chicks into their aprons, round bowler hats and the bright folds of their skirts. We watched their daughters chase the pullets across a schoolyard, excitedly counting their eggs while the hens were barely hatched. In a remote desert in the lowlands, we watched a mother pat out goat cheese with her hands, dribble honey over it from her own hive, and bend down to give a nourishing bite to her toddler—after first sharing some with us, her guests. I was lucky enough to witness the pride and burgeoning health of families all over Peru who explained to us how they cared for their animals, how they used their new resources and skills to improve the

health of the surrounding forests and soil, how they'd begun to count on a future they could not have imagined a few years ago.

What I never really understood before this trip, though, is what it means to pass a newly secured future on to a neighbor. The eradication of poverty involves more than satisfying physical needs. It means reaching, somehow, the soul of a woman who has lost husband and children and describes her entire life with the single word "poor." Her grief goes beyond hunger, I imagine, into a sense of human irrelevance. To trust that our lives have meaning, every one of us needs to effect some tangible change in the world. It's why I donate to Heifer. Why should I think I'm alone in that desire?

In Baja Piura, after the dust of the ceremony had settled, we wiped the tears and grit from our eyes and returned to our cool hotel. I ate dinner with Luis Gómez Abramonte, a staff member from Heifer's Piura office. An agricultural ecologist, he did research at the university before taking the job here. He greatly prefers working for Heifer, he said, because of the practical effectiveness of the work. Expansion is automatically built into the project through each recipient's contract to pass on the gift. Heifer has now reached more than 2,000 families in the Piura area alone. I had a hundred questions, and sorted through them to try to get at the basic thing I wondered about: Does it always work this well? Does every recipient become a benefactor?

Luis answered me patiently: Sometimes animals get sick and fail to reproduce, though this is rare because the project provides veterinary training. This, too, is a gift passed on, since every technician trained in animal care agrees to train others.

I persisted, "But when there is an increase—a profit, you could say—it gets shared?" My doubts arose from a lifetime of having been scolded as a ridiculous optimist, I suppose—too many warnings that human nature is ultimately greedy. "Everyone always passes on the gift?"

"I didn't invent anything here," Julio said. "Our fathers did these things. The land was all they had, and things like manure and biological controls. They saved seeds and had improvement plots to strengthen their seed lines. They knew farming. We came to do it another way, which we thought would be easier, relying on things we could buy, or chemicals supplied by the government— if we could get them. That's what hurt the land. Now we're learning to rely on ourselves again."

Luis smiled. "For most participants, that passing-on is the best day of their lives. Why wouldn't they show up for it?"

Why, indeed. 🙈

Coming in the September/October issue of *World Ark*: Barbara Kingsolver writes more about her trip to Heifer International projects in Peru.

Barbara Kingsolver grew up in Kentucky and was trained as a biologist before becoming a full-time writer. Her books include collected poetry, novels, short fiction and essay collections. The Poisonwood Bible was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1999 and voted the Book of the Year by American Booksellers. Kingsolver was the recipient of the National Humanities Medal in 2000. Her latest books are Small Wonder, a collection of essays, and Last Stand: America's Virgin Lands, prose poetry set alongside the photographs of Annie Griffiths Belt. Kingsolver frequently contributes book reviews and articles on culture and politics to various national publications and with her husband, Steven Hopp, she also co-writes articles on natural history. Kingsolver's books have been translated and published throughout the world in more than 20 languages. She lives with her husband and two daughters on a farm in southern Appalachia.



# IN HIS OWN WORDS

## Kawsi Bodua

am a beneficiary of, and project leader for, the Beposo Livestock Association, formed in 1999. We are a group of farmers who came together with the hope that together we could help one another clear large farms. We decided to write to solicit the help of Heifer. In 2001, Heifer responded to our request positively. In fact, we so marveled when Heifer International came to our aid. We were given 244 animals—sheep and goats—to 68 families. We shared the animals, three to a family. Before Heifer came to our aid, the income levels were so low in our community. The majority of the people were living on below 25 cents a day.

Heifer didn't just bring animals. They took us through a whole lot of training programs, including how best to manage our animals, how best to construct pens and the health issues of the animals, so that the animals would not die. So many technologies were introduced to help farmers understand how the manure we were getting from the animals could be used. When we did begin using the manure, it looked like magic. Previously, we had harvested four bags of mace per acre. After the application of the manure, we realized close to 10 bags per acre, and some group members harvested closer to 12 bags.

We thought, this manure works wonders for the mace farm. Why not use it on our other crops, like vegetables? Previously we had harvested 50 baskets of vegetables from one acre, and now we harvest 120 bags

from the same land area—all because of the manure application process.

Heifer didn't stop there. A series of programs was organized for us, training programs, how best to care for our environment. We were told about the most important issues in connection with our situation, and how bad it is for farmers to continually cut down trees for firewood. We had no options in those times, because we were dependent on firewood for our cooking. They devised a method of new oven technology, which used local materials, mainly clay, not wood. Once the stove was constructed, we saw that it used very little firewood. Now that stove can cook two meals at a time, and it is so constructed that smoke does not enter the eye of whoever is approaching the stove.

Heifer organized other programs, including what they termed "gender." They said that there is something called gender, and that gender, according to Heifer, should bring equity in the distribution of decision-making between a man and his wife. Previously, in my community you would never see the man carrying the baby behind his back; you would never see the man helping the wife in the kitchen. But now, I tell you, come to my community, and you will see the men carrying water from the riverside, pounding fufu [an African staple, usually made from yams], and helping their wives in day-to-day chores—something that was previously nonexistent.

It didn't end there. Heifer taught us how best to manage our farms, to farm without burning. They said this was a practice that militated against the soil fertility, and that the fire could spread and destroy vegetation. And of course, we had learned in the trainings that vegetation is crucial to man's existence. We realized this was true. In our community, there was a particular stream that we used to drink from and used the water to wash. We farmed close to this stream, and before long, the whole stream dried up. We saw that to save that stream,

he Beposo project in Ghana began in 2001. By the time I visited late last year, the project was well underway.

I met Kawsi Bodua at a meeting of Ghanaian Heifer staff and project partners, at which we discussed the future of Heifer's work in Ghana. Kawsi is a farmer from a village outside of Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti region in Ghana, and one of the primary contacts for the Beposo project. When he spoke in those meetings, I was struck by the richness of his contributions. Kawsi was thoughtful and well-spoken, and spoke warmly, from a depth of experience, about his work with Heifer.

When we weren't in meetings, I began interviewing some of Heifer's project participants on film. I was especially interested in Kawsi, because of his extensive experience and leadership role with the project. During a break, we chatted under a leafy tree a little ways from the meeting center. I asked him to think about the experiences of his community, and the stories he wanted to share. I left him alone for a few minutes, and then came back to set up the interview. If I had had a cameraman, I would have interviewed Kawsi face to face, but because I didn't, I set a Coke can on a rock in front of him. "Imagine that this is your interviewer," I told him. "Tell your story to the Coke can."

As it turned out, Kawsi hardly needed an interviewer. When he started talking, I started filming—and he spoke beautifully for almost 20 minutes, uninterrupted, detailing his community's experience with Heifer, the training they had received and the progress they have made. It was a remarkable moment, and we are lucky to have a record of it on film.

—Vincent Spione Heifer's deputy director of Planning and Evaluation



A farmer from a neighboring village (left) holds a supersized yam, grown with manure from Heifer's animals.

Village elders and leaders gather in Beposo for a portrait (opposite).



Above, one of the new, externally venting stoves can heat two pots at a time.

A man pounds fufu (right) while his wife holds their child.

A boy pumps water from a brand-new well (opposite) in Beposo.

it was very necessary to keep vegetation around the stream.

Therefore, we started planting trees. As I'm speaking now, Beposo Livestock Project has planted different species of trees. We have teak, we have terminalia and we have cedar. Around the stream, we have planted about 800 trees. And we have nurseries of more trees that we plan to plant around the stream when the rains set in.

We didn't stop there. We saw that we were getting a lot of income from these

# "Now, I tell you, come to my community, and you will see the men carrying water from the riverside."

activities. We were harvesting more mace, more plantain, more vegetables because of the application of the manure. And we said, "Whoa! If it is true that planting trees will help us, let us plant some 'economic' trees as well." We decided that something like



mango would be beneficial. We contacted Heifer Ghana for their assistance. They looked around and helped us to get the seedlings of very good hybrid mangos.

The project is comprised of three communities. Each planted ... hybrid mangos, so now we have six acres of hybrid mangos which are now fruiting. It is our hope to expand this plantation not only with mango but with other economic trees like citrus.

It will also interest you to hear that Beposo Livestock Association is a community around which we have many villages. These villages all have sheep and goats. But every year, when the rains set in, the villages lose almost all their animals to diarrhea. Heifer Ghana came to our assistance, training two workers from our group as community livestock workers. They received a series of trainings and they handle all the animals in Beposo and surroundings.

It is worth noting here that since these

series of trainings, our animals have stopped *dy-ing*. Mortality has been so much reduced that all the other villages around us now come to Beposo for help. They come and carry the CLW [community live-stock worker] away. [Bodua laughs.] Even though the CLW was trained for Beposo, the surrounding villages have almost captured him.

Out of the 244 animals that we have been given, they have multiplied. We now have over 600 animals in the community from that placement. The 68 families who started the group have grown to over 300 families, and all the families are now enjoying all the facilities—simply

because Heifer introduced what they call Passing on the Gift.

And we really understood that! We have passed on the gift to so many people. That is why we have grown. I'm telling you, all the new members, they have all obtained their new animals, and their animals are ready to pass on to other members. So it will not be long when all the inhabitants of the village, totaling around 400, will have animals. Now our livelihoods have increased, our standard of living; everybody is happy. 👙 Simply because of the process that we are now getting from Heifer, every member who is a true member now lives on \$1 a day.





www.heifer.org July August 2005 | WORLD ARK 19

# WORLD ARK MARKET



A picture is worth a thousand words...Bring the world to your family with this award-winning collection of inspirational quotes and photographs featuring Heifer International's projects and participants.

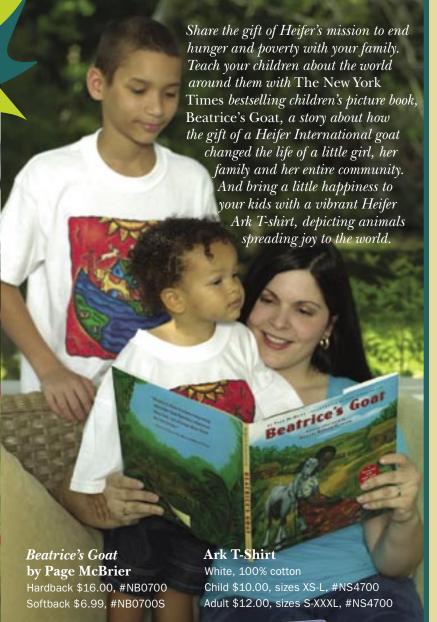
One World,
One Family book
Softback \$5.00, #NB0703

## Heifer Images



Share the story of Heifer's beginnings with the tale of how Faith the cow brought hope and healing to families in Puerto Rico.

Faith the Cow by Susan Bame Hoover Hardback \$16.00



# Heifer Style

Wrap your family and friends in Heifer today.



#### "Cowing Around" T-shirt

Available in Gold and Blue, 100% cotton Adult Gold \$15.00, sizes S-XXL, #NS4900 Adult Blue \$15.00, sizes S-XXL, #NS4900 Child Gold \$12.00, sizes XS-L, #NS4900 Child Blue \$12.00, sizes XS-L, #NS4900



#### Sage Advice: End Hunger T-shirt

Light green, embroidered Heifer logo, 100% cotton Adult long sleeve \$26.00. sizes S-XXL #NS5000 Adult short sleeve \$22.00, sizes S-XXL #NS5000



#### **Sport Heifer Ball Caps**

Relaxed front 100% cotton Available in Stone or Khaki One size fits all \$10.00, #NS4000



#### Heifer Denim Shirt Embroidered Heifer logo

100% cotton
Adult long sleeve \$30.00
sizes S-XXXL, #NS4100
Adult short sleeve \$28.00
sizes S-XXXL, #NS4200



## "The Cow That Saved the Earth" T-shirt

Black, 100% cotton Adult \$12.00 sizes S-XXL #NS4800



#### "End Hunger: Pass It On" T-shirt

Gray, 100% cotton Adult long sleeve \$20.00, sizes S-XXL #NS5100

### WORLD ARK MARKET

#### **ORDER FORM**

NAME							
SHIPPING	ADDRESS						
CITY		ST	ATE ZIP				
PHONE	RES	IDENCE	BUSINESS				
CHECK EN	ICLOSED \$						
CHARGE T	O MY CREDIT CARD:	\$					
U VISA	☐ MASTERCARD	☐ DISCOVER	AMERICAN EXPRESS				
CREDIT CARD NUMBER (ALL DIGITS, PLEASE)							
EXPIRATIO	N DATE						
NAME AS	IT APPEARS ON CARD	,					
SIGNATUR	F						

Org.	The second secon	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	*/ ***********************************		, diese	1000
l	RLD ARK July/Au es good through	-	'05	Shipping a	Subtotal \$ nd Handling \$ Total	

#### SHIPPING AND HANDLING (UNITED STATES AND CANADA)

\$00.01 — \$20.00	\$4.50
\$20.01 — \$30.00	\$6.00
\$30.01 — \$50.00	\$7.00
\$50.01 — \$80.00	\$8.50
OVER \$80.00	\$12.00

#### Mail to

Heifer International P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR 72203-8058



RP1075



You can help spread Heifer's message of hope, while your friends and family enjoy the uplifting photographs of Heifer's project participants featured in the 2005 wall calendar and Heifer "Portraits" notecards. The Heifer coffee mug is a daily reminder that it is possible to end hunger and poverty.

- A. Heifer 2005 Wall Calendar (13 images) SOLD OUT
- **B. Heifer Mug** \$8.00, #NM0411
- C. Heifer Portraits Notecards \$11.00 #NN0014



## Heifer Greetings

Heifer has the perfect way to keep in touch all year.

#### **Heifer Notecards**

Artist Betty LaDuke's colorful portrayals of Heifer projects in Uganda and Rwanda.

- A. Uganda Set \$8.00, #NNU004
- B. Rwanda Set \$8.00, #NNR004

## Heifer Ties

Show the world that the special man in your life makes a real difference. These 100% silk ties, adorned with the Heifer logo, not only look good they promote a good cause too.

Available in Blue and Red, 100% silk

Blue Tie, \$25.00 #NT001400B Red Tie, \$25.00 #NT000400M

#### Heifer, Naturally

Heifer Hope Blend is a Fair Trade Certified™ organic coffee created by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters®. When you buy this coffee, you get great taste and a chance to help Heifer end hunger and protect the Earth. Heifer trains small family farmers in Guatemala how to raise crops in an environmentally

> friendly way, and these farmers grow many of the beans used in this coffee.

> > Whole Beans 12 oz. bag. \$8.69 #NGHH04 Ground Beans 12 oz. bag, \$8.69 #NGHH14



The following is an excerpt from Outgrowing the Earth: The Food Security Challenge in an Age of Falling Water Tables and Rising Temperatures by Lester R. Brown, founder and president of the Earth Policy Institute and recipient of many prizes and awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship and the 1987 United Nations' Environment Prize. Among Brown's works are Man, Land and Food, World Without Borders, Building a Sustainable Society, Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth and Plan B: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble.



©2004 Earth Policy Institute

# From Dirt to Dust Protecting Cropland

#### By Lester R. Brown

n April 18, 2001, the western United States—from the Arizona border north to Canada—was blanketed with dust. The dirt came from a huge dust storm that originated in northwestern China and Mongolia on April 5. Measuring 1,800 kilometers across when it left China, the storm carried millions of tons of topsoil, a vital resource that would take centuries to replace through natural processes.

Almost exactly one year later, on April 12, 2002, South Korea was engulfed by a huge dust storm from China that left people in Seoul literally gasping for breath. Schools were closed, airline flights were cancelled, and clinics were overrun with patients having

difficulty breathing. Retail sales fell. Koreans have come to dread the arrival of what they now call "the fifth season," the dust storms of late winter and early spring.

These two dust storms, among some 20 or more major dust storms in China during 2001 and 2002, are one of the externally visible indicators of the ecological catastrophe unfolding in northern and western China. Overgrazing and overplowing are converting productive land to desert on an unprecedented scale. Other dust storms are occurring in Africa, mostly in the southern Sahara and the Sahelian zone. Scientists estimate that Chad alone may be exporting 1.3 billion tons of topsoil each year to the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean islands, and even

Florida in the United States. Wind erosion of soil and the resulting desert creation and expansion are shrinking the cropland base in scores of countries.

Another powerful pressure on cropland is the automobile. Worldwide, close to 400,000 hectares (1 million acres) of land, much of it cropland, are paved each year for roads, highways, and parking lots. In densely populated, low-income developing countries, the car is competing with farmers for scarce arable land.

The addition of more than 70 million people each year requires land for living and working—driving the continuous construction of houses, apartment buildings, factories, and office buildings. Worldwide, for every 1 million people

www.heifer.org July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK 23

added, an estimated 40,000 hectares of land are needed for basic living space.

These threats to the world's cropland, whether advancing deserts, expanding automobile fleets, or housing developments, are gaining momentum, challenging some of the basic premises on which current population, transportation, and land use policies rest.

#### **Losing Soil and Fertility**

Soil erosion is not new. It is as old as the earth itself. But with the advent of agriculture, the acceleration of soil erosion on mismanaged land increased to the point where soil loss often exceeded new soil formation. Once this threshold is crossed, the inherent fertility of the land begins to fall.

As soil accumulated over millennia, it provided a medium in which plants could grow. Plants protected the soil from erosion. The biological fertility of the earth is due to the accumulation of topsoil over long stretches of geologic time—the product of a mutually beneficial relationship between plants and soil. But as the human enterprise expanded, soil erosion began to exceed new soil formation in more and more areas, slowly thinning the layer of topsoil that had built up over time. Each year the world's farmers are challenged to feed another 70 million or more people but with less topsoil than the year before.

Erosion of soil by water and wind reduces the fertility of

rangeland and cropland. For the rangelands that support the nearly 3.1 billion head of cattle, sheep, and goats in our custody, the threat comes from the overgrazing that destroys vegetation, leaving the land vulnerable to erosion. Rangelands, located mostly in semiarid regions of the world, are particularly vulnerable to wind erosion.

In farming, erosion comes from plowing land that is steeply sloping or too dry to support adequate soil protection with ground cover. Steeply sloping land that is not protected by terraces, by perennial crops, or some other way loses soil when it rains heavily. Thus the land hunger that drives farmers up mountainsides fuels erosion. Land that is excessively dry, usually receiving below 25 centimeters (10 inches) of rain a year, is highly vulnerable to wind erosion once vegetation, typically grass, is cleared for cropping or by overgrazing. Under cultivation, this soil often begins to blow away.

In the United States, wind erosion is common in the semiarid Great Plains, where the country's wheat production is concentrated. In the U.S. Corn Belt, where most of the country's corn and soybeans are grown, the principal erosion threat is from water. This is particularly true in the states with rolling land and plentiful rainfall, such as Iowa and Missouri.

Land degradation from both water and wind erosion in the world's vulnerable drylands is extensive, affecting some 900 million hectares, an area substantially larger than the world's grainlands (some 670 million hectares). Two thirds of this damaged land is in Africa and Asia, including the Middle East. These also are the world's two most populous regions. And they are where fully two thirds of the 3 billion people expected to be added to world population by 2050 will live.

The enormous twentieth-century expansion in world food production pushed agriculture onto highly vulnerable land in many countries. The overplowing of the U.S. Great Plains during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, for example, led to the 1930s Dust Bowl. This was a tragic era in U.S. history—one that forced hundreds of thousands of farm families to leave the Great Plains.

Three decades later, history repeated itself in the Soviet Union. The Virgin Lands Project, a huge effort to convert grassland into grainland between 1954 and 1960, led to the plowing of an area for wheat that exceeded the wheatland in Canada and Australia combined. Initially this resulted in an impressive expansion in Soviet grain production, but the success was short-lived as a dust bowl developed there too.

Kazakhstan, at the center of the Virgin Lands Project, saw its grainland area peak and begin to decline around 1980. After reaching a historical high of just over 25 million hectares, it shrank to barely half that size—13 million hectares. Even on the remaining land, however, the average wheat yield is only 1.1 tons per hectare, a

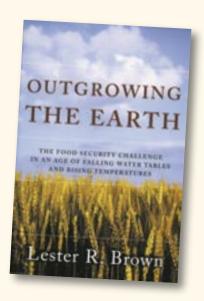
24 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK www.heifer.org

far cry from the nearly 7 tons per hectare that farmers get in France, Western Europe's leading wheat producer and exporter. This precipitous drop in Kazakhstan's grain harvest illustrates the price that other countries will have to pay for overplowing and overgrazing.

In the closing decades of the twentieth century, yet another dust bowl—perhaps the biggest of all—began developing in China. It is the result of overgrazing, overplowing, overcutting of trees, and overpumping of aquifers, all of which make the land in northern and western China more vulnerable to erosion.

Africa, too, is suffering from heavy losses of topsoil as a result of wind erosion. Andrew Goudie, Professor of Geography at Oxford University, reports that dust storms originating over the Sahara-once so rare-are now commonplace. He estimates they have increased tenfold during the last half-century. Among the countries most affected by topsoil loss via dust storms are Niger, Chad, northern Nigeria, and Burkino Faso. In Mauritania, in Africa's far west, the number of dust storms jumped from 2 a year in the early 1960s to 80 a year today.

The Bodélé Depression in Chad is the source of an estimated 1.3 billion tons of dust a year, up tenfold from 1947, when measurements began. Dust storms leaving Africa travel westward across the Atlantic, depositing so much dust in the Caribbean that they damage coral reefs there. When the dust is carried northward and de-



posited on Greenland, it reduces the reflectivity of the ice, leading to greater heat absorption and accelerated ice melting. The 2–3 billion tons of fine soil particles that leave Africa each year in dust storms are slowly draining the continent of its fertility and, hence, its biological productivity.

Dust storms and sand storms are a regular feature of life in the Middle East as well. The Sistan Basin on the border of Afghanistan and Iran is now a common source of dust storms in that region. Once a fertile complex of lakes and marshes fed by the Helmand River, which originates in the highlands of eastern Afghanistan, the area has become largely a desert as the river has been drained dry by the increasing water withdrawals by Afghan farmers for irrigation.

The bottom line is that the accelerating loss of topsoil from wind and water erosion is slowly but surely reducing the earth's inherent biological productivity. Unless governments, farmers, and herders can mobilize to

reverse this trend, feeding 70 million more people each year will become progressively more difficult.

#### **Converting Cropland**

In addition to losing cropland to Lesevere soil erosion and desert expansion, the world is also losing cropland to various nonfarm uses, including residential construction, industrial construction, paving of roads and parking lots, and airports, as well as to recreational uses, such as tennis courts and golf courses. If for every million people added to the world's population, 40,000 hectares of land are needed for nonfarm uses, adding more than 70 million people each year claims nearly 3 million hectares, part of which is agricultural land. The cropland share of land converted to nonfarm uses varies widely both within and among countries, but since cities are typically located on the most fertile land, it is often high—sometimes 100 percent.

China is currently working to create 100 million jobs in the manufacturing sector. With the average factory in China employing 100 workers, China needs to build 1 million factories—many of which will be sited on former cropland. India, with the annual addition of 18 million people and with accelerating economic growth, is facing similar pressures to convert cropland to other uses.

Residential building claims on cropland are also heavy. If we assume each dwelling houses on average five people, then adding 70 million or more people to world population each year means building 14 million houses or apartments annually.

While population growth spurs housing demand, rising incomes spur automobile ownership. The world automobile fleet is expanding by roughly 9 million per year. Each car requires the paving of land.

As long as a fleet is growing, the country has no choice but to pave more land if it wants to avoid gridlock. In India, a country of only 8 million cars, each new million cars require the paving of roughly 20,000 hectares of land. If it is cropland, and of average productivity, this translates into roughly 50,000 tons of grain, enough to feed 250,000 people at the country's current meager food consumption level. A country that will need to feed an additional 515 million people by 2050 cannot afford to cover scarce cropland with asphalt for roads and parking lots.

As the world's affluent turn to the automobile, they are competing for land with those who are hungry and malnourished. Governments in developing countries are essentially using their financial resources to underwrite the public infrastructure for the automobile often at the expense of the hungry.

In the United States, where 0.07 hectares of paved land is required for each car, every five cars added to the fleet require paving an area the size of a football field. Thus the 2 million cars added to the U.S. fleet each year require asphalting an area equal to nearly

400,000 football fields.

Just parking the 214 million motor vehicles owned by Americans requires a vast area of land. Imagine a parking lot with a fleet of 214 million vehicles. If that is difficult, try visualizing a parking lot for 1,000 cars, and then imagine 214,000 such parking lots. The 16 million hectares (61,000 square miles) of U.S. land devoted to roads, highways, and parking lots compares with 21 million hectares that American farmers planted in wheat in 2004.

As the new century gets under way, the competition between cars and crops for land is heating up. Until recently the paving over of cropland has occurred largely in industrial countries, where four fifths of the world's 539 million automobiles are found. But now more and more farmland is being sacrificed in developing countries with hungry populations, calling into question the future role of the car.

There is not enough land in China, India, and other densely populated countries like Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, and Mexico to both support automobile-centered transportation systems and feed people. The competition between cars and crops for land is thus becoming a struggle between the rich and the poor—between those who can afford automobiles and those who are struggling to get enough food to survive.

#### **Conserving Topsoil**

In contrast to the loss of cropland to nonfarm uses, which is often

beyond the control of farmers, the losses of soil and eroded land from severe erosion are within their control. Reducing soil losses caused by wind and water erosion to below the rate of new soil formation will take an enormous worldwide effort. Based on the experience of leading food producers such as China and the United States, as well as numerous smaller countries, easily 5 percent of the world's cropland is highly erodible and should be converted back to grass or trees before it becomes wasteland. The first step to halting the decline in inherent land fertility is to pull back from this fast-deteriorating margin.

The key to controlling wind erosion is to keep the land covered with vegetation as much as possible and to slow wind speeds at ground level. Ground-level wind speeds can be slowed by planting shrubs or trees on field borders and by leaving crop residues on the surface of the soil. For areas with strong winds and in need of electricity, such as northwestern China, wind turbines can simultaneously slow wind speeds and provide cheap electricity.

One time-tested method for dealing with water erosion is terracing, as is so common in rice paddies throughout the mountainous regions of Asia. On less steeply sloping land, contour strip farming, as found in the U.S. Midwest, works well.

Another tool in the soil conservation toolkit—and a relatively new one—is conservation tillage, which includes both no-till and minimum tillage. Farmers

26 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK www.heifer.org

are learning that less tillage may be better for their crops. Instead of the traditional cultural practices of plowing land, discing or harrowing it to prepare the seedbed, and then planting with a seeder and cultivating row crops with a mechanical cultivator two or three times to control weeds, farmers simply drill seeds directly through crop residues into undisturbed soil. Weeds are controlled with herbicides. The only soil disturbance is the creation of a narrow slit where the seeds are inserted just below the surface.

#### **Saving Cropland**

very person added to the Lworld's population in a landscarce time provides another reason for protecting cropland from conversion to nonfarm uses. Ideally, we would build our homes, offices, factories, shopping malls, roads, and parking lots only on land that is unsuitable for farming. Unfortunately, people are concentrated where the best cropland is located—either because they are farmers or because land that is good for crops is typically the flat, well-drained land that is also ideal for cities and the construction of roads.

This reality underscores the importance of land use planning in the development of human settlements and also in the formulation of transportation policy. The U.S. sprawl model of development is not only land-intensive, it is also energy-inefficient and aesthetically unappealing. Urban sprawl leaves people trapped in communities not densely populated

enough to support a first-class public transport system, thus forcing them to commute by car, with all the attendant congestion, pollution, and frustration.

Automobiles promised mobility, and in largely rural societies they provided it. But in urban situations a continually increasing number of cars eventually brings immobility. There is an inherent conflict between the car and the city. After a point, the more cars, the less mobility. Some cities are now taxing cars every time they enter a city or the center district.

European governments, which have followed a very different development model from the United States, have carefully zoned their urban development, leading to a much more land-efficient, energy-efficient, aesthetically pleasing approach. Ironically, Americans often spend their vacations biking in the English or French countrysides, so they can enjoy picturesque rural settings not destroyed by sprawl.

In developing countries facing acute land scarcity, there is now another pressing reason for protecting cropland from the automobile and urban sprawl. China, for example, has been blindly following the western industrial development model. In 1994, it announced that it was going to develop an auto-centered transportation system, inviting manufacturers such as Toyota, General Motors, and Volkswagen to submit proposals for building assembly plants in China.

Within a matter of months a group of senior Chinese scien-

tists, including members of the Academy of Sciences, had produced a white paper challenging this decision. They noted the oil import needs this policy entailed, along with the traffic congestion and air pollution. But their principal question was whether China had enough land both to feed its people and to support an auto-centered transportation system. Their conclusion was that it did not and that the government should build an alternative urban transportation model that used far less land—a system centered on light rail, buses, and bicycles.

We are indebted to these scientists for recognizing early on that the automobile-centered, western industrial development model is simply not appropriate for densely populated developing countries. Nor over the long term is this model likely to be viable in industrial countries either.

When industrial countries were rapidly urbanizing during the twentieth century, agricultural land was considered a surplus commodity. Now it is a scarce resource. In today's densely populated developing countries, the amount of land used by transportation systems directly affects food production. In a world of 6 billion people, transportation policy and food security are intimately related.

Data for figures and additional information can be found at www.earth-policy.org/Books/Out/index.htm.

# A Tale of Traveling Quilts

udrey Veath (known as Heifer International's "Quilt Lady" because of the quilt auctions she has organized), says that quilts fascinate her because each one takes on a life of its own. At Heifer, donated quilts have a way of taking on several lives of their own, spreading well-being not only to those who buy them but also to those project partners who ultimately benefit from them.

Several years ago, Sonya Colvins from Cambridge, Iowa, made her first quilt. Colvins is the second generation of three generations of generous Heifer supporters, so she decided to make it in honor of Heifer's work around the world. She embroidered the quilt to tell the Heifer story, and her friend Judy Lehman hand-quilted it.

Each patch represents an animal that is used by Heifer project participants to help them build sustainable futures. And of course, Colvins included a cow that represents the cows that both her parents and her husband's parents donated directly to Heifer in the 1950s.

"The quilt has been used in a variety of ways, hung up at churches, petting zoos, vacation Bible schools and the lowa State Fair at the Heifer booth," Colvins said. The quilt has since relocated to Little Rock, where plans are to display it to honor all the volunteers who have raised considerable sums of money for Heifer with quilt auctions.

Another quilt that keeps on giving was made by the women of the Lakewood Church of the Brethren in Millbury, Ohio. After they completed their



beautiful quilt, they donated it to be auctioned off at the 60th anniversary celebration in Little Rock in 2004.

The quilt was bought by a donor, who then donated it back so that it could be auctioned again. Rowena Impey, who works in the Midwest Heifer office, had her eye on that quilt, and when it went back up for auction, she didn't miss the opportunity to purchase it.

Then in April 2005, Rowena's church had a fund-raiser for a 3-year-old girl who is suffering from a rare form of cancer. Rowena donated the quilt, which was auctioned off at a very nice price.

Yet another quilt was made by the Sewing Circle of Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren in northeastern Indiana, which has been making quilts



28 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK www.heifer.org

for years for local hospitals and shelters. When the seven members of the sewing circle heard that Heifer's Midwest regional office in Goshen, Ind., planned a guilt auction for Heifer's 60th, they decided to make one in honor of Heifer.

When the quilt was completed, it was a work of art-a large wall hanging with a lively Noah's Ark theme. The sewing circle displayed it for their congregation to enjoy, promoting the work of Heifer International.

The sewing circle later delivered the quilt to Goshen for the auction. Cleo Kottwitz, a retired United Methodist pastor and part-time Heifer representative, hadn't planned on buying a quilt but couldn't resist when he saw it.

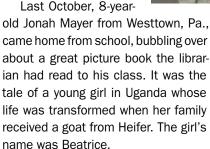
Cleo displayed the quilt in his office in Columbia, Mo., for several months. In October 2004, he donated it to the annual Missouri Festival of Sharing, where it was bought by the Rev. Ichiro Matsuda, a retired Presbyterian pastor, at a price that provided 29 blankets for refugee families.

Matsuda has loaned the guilt for display at the First Presbyterian Church in Boonville, Mo., but he plans to donate it back to the Festival of Sharing to be auctioned again in the fall of 2005.

"Who knows how this story will end?" Cleo Kottwitz said. "Perhaps someone will buy it and return it again to the Festival Quilt Auction in 2006, and continue Passing on the Gift. "

# **The Story That Grabbed** a Heart

oet Muriel Rukeyser said that the universe is made of stories, not of atoms. A story certainly changed one young boy's life—and then the lives of many others when it grabbed first his imagination and then his heart.



"Isn't that a cool story, Dad?" Jonah said. As they talked, Jonah's father, Eric, realized that Jonah didn't understand that the story of Beatrice was real. When he explained this, Jonah was astonished. That night, Jonah and his mother, Gail, looked up Heifer International online to learn more.

Gail Mayer says that when Jonah spied a cow for \$500 in the gift catalog, he declared, "I'm getting one of

And so Jonah's own story began. To raise that much money, he and his father decided to make and sell wooden cutting boards. Jonah sent a letter to family and friends, telling them about Heifer International, and asking if, instead of giving him Christmas presents, they would con-



sider buying a cutting board or making a donation to Heifer International.

Within two weeks, over \$1,200 had come in the mail.

"Jonah was so full of joy about this," Gail Mayer said. "I wanted him to conclude his project with something

more inspiring than simply pressing a button on a computer to make a donation or dropping a letter in a post box." When she contacted the local Heifer office to see if Jonah could deliver his donation in person, Mid-Atlantic Region coordinator Umaru Sule invited Jonah to an upcoming luncheon in Lancaster County, which Beatrice herself would be attending. Jonah could present the money directly to her.

At the luncheon, Beatrice and Jonah sat together. "It was so cool," Jonah said. "Beatrice seemed like someone who was really happy about her life. And I got to go on stage to give her the check and people clapped."

For Christmas that year, Jonah's father made him a special gift. Using a jigsaw, he cut out a wooden figurine of a heifer as a keepsake of this extraordinary experience. When Jonah opened it, he exclaimed, "Oh, wow! A pig!"

The family still laughs about this, and the figurine is a constant reminder of how one boy really can make a difference.

# **Zanes Makes Music for Heifer**

#### By Ray White

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

**Photos by Chris Talbott** 



Singer-songwriter Dan Zanes performs at Public School 76 in the Bronx.



Children watch a dancing puppet on a stick held by Dan Zanes as he demonstrates the traditional toy.

EW YORK, N.Y. — Dan Zanes, a former rock star with the '80s Boston group Del Fuegos and now a family man who makes hip children's music CDs with crossover appeal for adults on his own Festival Five label, recently made a special appearance for Heifer International at Public School 76 in the Bronx.

Zanes, who lives not far away in Brooklyn, played some of his original music for fourth-graders, who sang along as he accompanied them on guitar, banjo and mandolin.

The music struck a chord with his audience, who had begun a fund-raising drive for Heifer the week before and had already collected \$200, and who joined in enthusiastically on the nautical ballad "Pay Me My Money Down."

Heifer staff members brought two black lambs from Overlook Farm in Rut-

land, Mass., to turn the concert into an event.

Zanes' appearance is part of a fund drive begun after an anonymous donor, hoping to encourage philanthropy in young people, promised to match up to \$100,000 raised by New York children.

Fifty-nine schools

have raised more than \$70,000 for Heifer since the match was announced in 2004, most of it through Heifer's educational Read-to-Feed program. Another 46 schools are participating in Read-to-Feed this spring. Zanes donates a portion of the proceeds of his CD sales to Heifer International and other causes.



## Seven Gift Arks and Counting

rish-born Sister Loreto Downing, head of religious education for more than 1,200 children at Saints Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix, knows a thing or two about children. She also knows a thing or two about cows.

Sister Loreto hails from Blarney in County Cork, Ireland, where her brother Michael Downing raises dairy cows. For the last decade, Michael has earmarked (literally) a couple of cows each year to be donated to Bóthar, Heifer International's sister organization in Ireland. Using the gift of livestock to better the lives of others is a tradition in the Downing family.

"When I first arrived at Saints Simon and Jude's, I was seeking a way to involve the children in mission," Sister Loreto said. "And then, a brochure from Heifer just seemed to magically appear on my desk."

With the help of scores of volunteer instructors and parents, the children at Saints Simon and Jude Cathedral work hard year-round to raise money for Heifer International, selling newspapers, candy and donating their allowances. They also share the money they receive as gifts when they make their first communions and host hot dog dinners.

Sister Loreto, for her part, keeps morale and inspiration high by telling stories about the cows her family would raise for Bóthar to give to families in need. The children would lavish attention on them so the animals would learn to love people and not be lonely, separated from the rest of the herd.

Every year since 1998, children in the parish have raised enough money for a \$5,000 Gift Ark. The Downing family tradition has now crossed the ocean from Blarney to the big-hearted and hard-working children of a church in the heart of Phoenix.

# Actions Speak Louder

ne evening last fall, ninth-grader Casey Vantassell was looking for music on the internet when she happened upon the website of Tyler Hilton, a pop singer/songwriter/actor. On a whim, Casey e-mailed Hilton to ask if he would perform a benefit concert at her school, Myers Park High School in Charlotte, N.C. She never expected to receive an answer. Two days later, his manager e-mailed her back and said Hilton would be glad to help out however he could.

Casey and her friend Katherine Shintay had just been appointed to the student council of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, so they took the idea to IB coordinator Dr. Ron Thomas.

"The goal of the IB program is to empower students to become leaders who will make a difference in the world," Thomas said. "We don't spend a lot of time talking about changing the world—the students just do it."

"When Casey and Katherine came to us with the idea of putting on a benefit concert to raise money for a charity, we said sure, but only if this is a totally student-run project," Thomas said.

With a little help from their fellow students, Casey and Katherine took the project and ran with it. The student council decided the concert would be a fundraiser for Heifer International and called it "Starving for Music."

The students launched a clever promotion campaign, selling tickets with packages of animal crackers. They learned how to work within a budget as they contracted with local companies for lighting, sound and security. They arranged for popular local DJ Johnny Tango to emcee the concert and persuaded a local Starbucks to donate coffee and cookies for the evening, with proceeds going to Heifer International. Justincase, a local Charlotte band, opened for Hilton.

The results of Starving for Music were remarkable. After expenses, the students had raised more than \$6,000. They also raised awareness about Heifer—and they raised their own personal expectations for what they can do to change the world.

# **Clean Water Provides Cure**

#### Story and photos by Ray White

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

UAY SA BU, Thailand—A dirt path runs between a row of bamboo houses in tiny Huay Sa Bu village north of Chiang Mai, Thailand. The village sits on a low ridge overlooking rice paddies where Heifer-provided water buffalo work as draft animals, helping provide food and income to its 117 villagers.

Before, sores marred the children's faces. Diarrhea and dehydration were recurring problems—more dangerous to young children than to adults. The probable cause of constant illness in the village was the polluted river from which the villagers drew water, said Pramote Eua-amnuay, Heifer's country director for Thailand. So in addition to water buffalo, Heifer helped improve the village water supply.

The village was started more than a decade ago by two families who had moved down from their homes in the high-lands village of Mea Muang Noi to lower ground to become day laborers. Gradually other families from Mea Muang Noi followed. Their only pay was a share of the crops they raised for food, but over the years the villagers managed to buy a few acres of land and build simple bamboo houses there. They remained very poor.

Then last year they began implementing the first phase of a three-year community improvement strategic plan supported by Heifer International. Many in the village continue today doing day labor at the rate of about \$2.50 a day, but now their water buffalo supply extra income. Incomes now average \$300 to \$700 a year.

Today, in addition to the better incomes and the security of owning more than 15 water buffalo, the village has constructed a community privy, formed a savings group and increased income further by selling water buffalo manure for 20 baht (5 cents) a bag. But perhaps the biggest improvement is that the villagers have built a small, gravity-flow water system using plastic pipe that supplies the community with clean water from an upland spring. It cost \$1,200.

Not far away another village, Huai Pa Rai, with a longer history with Heifer, also has clean water and active children with clear skin. The systems are ingeniously simple. In Huai Pa Rai, water flows into an intake at a hillside

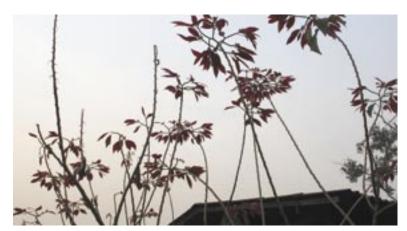


Thai country director Pramote Eua-amnauy (in red cap) and staff with Tanya Wright, Heifer's senior vice president for Internal Operations, in front of the community water tanks in Huai Pa Rai.



A young woman bathes her baby at a community water faucet on a concrete pad.

32 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK www.heifer.org



Plants silhouetted against a morning sky in Huai Pa Rai.



In Huai Pa Rai, a bamboo house sits on stilts.

spring about an hour's hike up a steep path from the village. The pipe empties into the first of two 2,500-gallon concrete collection tanks built on a slope above the village. The tanks sit on a concrete pad in the shade of a tin roof. The second tank is for storage and has a pipe near the top that dumps any overflow into a ditch a few yards downhill during the wet season. Blue plastic pipe runs down to the village, where faucets pop up out of the ground at regular intervals. Turn a tap and the water flows.

Maintenance is negligible and as long as forest covers the mountainside, the water resources are reliable. The big tanks carry the village through dry spells.

Clean water has brought about big changes in their lives in Huay Sa Bu, said the village leader, Lucy Ja-ui, who smiled broadly as she worked a simple loom making colorful cloth common to the villagers' tribal roots. "The children's faces cleared up and they were no longer sick all the time," she said. "Today the children are healthy."

And you can see it in their faces.

# **Meeting** the Challenge

the fortunate recipient of several grants from the Sandy River Charitable Foundation in Maine. The support of the Sandy River Charitable Foundation has been the impetus to start Heifer International's Disaster Rehabilitation and Agroecology initiatives, which have given field programs flexibility in developing projects to sustainably address unique problems and situations.

For the past five years, Heifer has used the support from the Sandy River Foundation as a challenge to raise additional money. Heifer has stepped things up a bit this year. Heifer and the Sandy River Charitable Foundation have developed a 1-1 ratio challenge grant in support of Heifer's Agroecology Initiative. To receive the \$220,000 grant from the foundation, Heifer needs to raise an additional \$220,000.

The Agroecology Initiative reaches all program areas and supports a variety of projects, from water monitoring in Asia to reforestation in South America. This is an exciting opportunity for Heifer to develop projects to support unique ecosystems and give people the resources needed to care for their environment.

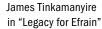
# A Conversation With an Old Friend

decade ago a documentary film group traveled the world filming various Heifer International project participants. The resulting film, "The Legacy for Efraín," recorded the struggles and the successes of the recipients of Heifer animals.

"Legacy" focused on a woman who lost a baby from malnutrition but after receiving a cow was able to improve her family's nutrition. Another segment featured Ugandan James Tinkamanyire, who received a goat from Heifer and expressed his excitement that he now could regularly feed his family and start construction on a concrete home. His dream was to finish his family home and build a school for orphans.

In February, Heifer staff in Uganda interviewed Tinkamanyire to see if he had fulfilled his dream and what other changes the years had brought.







James Tinkamanyire today

Heifer: James, 10 years ago you were in a film called the "Legacy for Efraín." In the film you talked about how you wanted to make enough money to build an orphanage for children in need. Have you been able to achieve this goal with the help you got from Heifer International?

Tinkamanyire: It was my dream to build a school for needful children, the orphans. After I had planned to do that, the government started universal education. It was to help all needy people. Heifer helped me raise enough money to put up buildings that are now the educational institute.

We still need more help because we need machines, and this I cannot afford. But still I help the needy children as I talked about in the "Legacy for Efraín."

**Heifer:** You also indicated in the film that you were

working on a new house for yourself. How far have you gone in accomplishing this?

**Tinkamanyire:** It is a three-bedroom house with a living room and a dining room. It is now completed because it is cemented, plastered and roofed. This is where my family and I stay. I thank Heifer Project for that.

**Heifer:** What other accomplishments have you been able to achieve in your community?

Tinkamanyire: In my community today as a recipient of Heifer Project we cannot find a child who is malnourished at this time. But before Heifer Project came to my community almost 70 percent of the children were malnourished. ... Secondly, a girl child is respected. Women are empowered in community involvement. They are now leaders in the church-

es, they are leaders in local counsels, and they are working in economical involvement in the community.

**Heifer:** What about incomes for the members of the community?

**Tinkamanyire:** The incomes are improving compared to the past. Women are involved in environmental projects.

**Heifer:** Are there other personal stories you want to share because of Heifer International assistance?

Tinkamanyire: A story I want to share is about the women who come from my area who have received help from Heifer Project. When their husbands die from AIDS, their families continue to sustain compared to the families who have not received help from the Heifer Project. For example, there was a man in my community who died two years after he received

an animal from Heifer Project. He received the animal eight years ago and died after having it for two. He left a widow with six children. The woman sustains the family. ... The woman also passed on the gift to other families. Now she is selling offspring from the animal and selling milk and getting money to send the children to school.

**Heifer:** Now, personally, how have the Heifer gifts you received continued to change your life?

Tinkamanyire: As you can see [James wears a suit], compared to the way I looked in the "Legacy for Efraín" there is a big change. And it still is changing my life and my family. Before I received the animal from Heifer Project, life was laborious for my family and me. I have had three children with my wife, but two of them were malnourished. When I received the animal

34 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK

and training from Heifer, I began selling milk, selling the offspring [of the goat]. I gained empowerment from the teachings of Heifer Project. I have become the leader of the community and the local council. ... This is why I say I have made a big change. I thank everyone who has contributed to Heifer Project.

Heifer: In the film you said that now you felt like you are a man among men because you were able to improve your life and those around you because of Heifer International. What would you say now about that statement?

Tinkamanyire: I said I was a man among men in the film not because I had a lot of money, but I had been able to sustain my family and my community. There has been a big change in me since the filming, and now I feel I am more a man among men. There is a big difference in my life because of Heifer Project. Sometimes I think about if I was not a Heifer recipient. Would I be dead or would I be alive? When I think of those days tears almost come out of my eyes. These are the times I don't forget about all the American donors, and I thank them very much.

## "Everything Has Changed"

#### Story and photos by Darcy Kiefel

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL PHOTOJOURNALIST

ROKEAT. Cambodia— As farmers in the impoverished village of Trokeat, 25 miles east of Phnom Penh, Yim Yom and her husband did not have much, but over the years, as they struggled to make ends meet for themselves and their five children, they always had each other. In 1997, her husband was killed by a thief for his bicycle, and Yim Yom spent the next eight years scraping together a living for her family.

"After my husband died," she recalled, "I did not know how we would survive. The children had to eat, go to school, but I could not imagine how I would manage. Every day we would go into the forest to collect whatever we could find to eat. Some days we came back empty-handed, other days we would get lucky, but it was never enough. My children suffered greatly during this time."

Trokeat is in the Kompong Speu Province, where 80 percent of the population are farmers. A long civil war and consecutive natural disasters have devastated this province's economy, and most men are forced



to search for work in urban areas, leaving the women to look after the homes, family and rice fields. But women often lack the technical skills needed to develop their land for production, and sometimes even sell what little land they own as a source of income.

In 1994, the province developed the MKD Project, (Khmer Mother's Development) to provide vocational training to widows and other single women. In 2002, Heifer International joined the project, providing 50 cows and 300 chickens and technical training to the farmers.

MKD and Heifer International initially focused on 50 women householders living in remote areas of the Kompong Speu Prov-

ince. The project training has helped these women and their families develop technical skills in animal health and production, enabling them to improve their nutrition and standard of living. Through the development of home gardens, families have generated additional income from the sale of vegetables. A saving system in the target villages has been arranged; each participant contributes 500 to 1,000 Riels (12 to 24 cents) per month to use for emergencies.

Before the project, Yim and her five children lived in a crudely built hut of approximately 50 square feet. Today, Yim proudly shows off her newly built home with its spacious living quarters and enough room to hang a hammock.

Yim has also become the project member responsible for gender equity. She said, "I cannot explain my feelings of becoming a woman leader for my community and children. I am proud of my accomplishments and our changes. And one day soon, I will become a donor, which will make me happy for another family."

www.heifer.org July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK 35

## The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World

Paul Roberts Mariner Paperback, \$14 **Reviewed by Bill McKibben** 

or the last 200 years, human beings have used increasingly more fossil fuel to build our industries and cushion our lives. Cheap energy has been the central economic fact of those two centuries. It has defined our lives.

But now—and perhaps quite suddenly—that may be changing. I paid \$2.25 for a gallon of gas on the way to work this morning, and if Paul Roberts is as correct as I think he is in this powerful book (first published last year in hardcover), that price will only go up. And as it rises, the world will change—in subtle ways, but perhaps also in dramatic ones.

Here is what's happening: On the one hand, we seem to be nearing the peak of world oil production. Optimists contend it's still a couple of decades away, but a growing number of analysts suggest we've already reached it, or soon will. After that, oil production will inexorably decline. The drop will be slow, but in the face of rapidly rising demand from China and other industrializing economies the gap between supply and appetite will be ever larger, and in that gap prices will shoot skyward.

And at exactly the same moment, we're facing another situation even more worrisome: The more we learn about global climate change, the clearer it becomes that we should stop burning fossil fuels before we overload the atmosphere with carbon dioxide.

So these are the facts: There won't be much oil to burn; oil and coal are environmentally disastrous to burn; and every action of a modern life depends on burning something. So what's a planet to do? Especially a planet that needs to make sure that its poorest corners have the opportunity to develop.

The quick answer, of course, is that we need to convert to renewable sources of energy, like solar and wind power. And indeed this is beginning to happen—wind is the fastest-growing source of electric generation on the planet. But capturing renewable forms of energy isn't easy. Renewables don't offer energy in the densely concentrated

form of a barrel of oil or a lump of coal, either of which is available whenever you want to use them, not just when the sun is shining or the wind blowing. Some forms of renewable energy count on the development of hydrogen fuel cells, but Roberts does a depressingly good job of pointing out the technical obstacles to this method. Some people hope for a resurgence of the nuclear industry, but at the moment, the costs of building atomic reactors are so high that almost any other strategy seems to offer more, shall we say, bang for the buck.

Indeed, what's most likely to emerge is some combination of all these sources, together with the hoped-for development of methods for burning coal that will allow the capture and storage of carbon. But the clearest imperatives are for conservation here at home: hybrid cars, well-insulated houses, an end to the parade of hulking SUVs. And abroad, in the developing world, the spread of technologies like village-scale solar power that will let people leapfrog past our troubled present.

These changes won't happen automatically. The countries that have moved the fastest, especially in Western Europe, have relied on careful government planning. So perhaps the most important resource at the moment is information—precisely what Roberts provides in such a useful and understandable form. Without such reflection, there's too much of a chance that we'll simply continue to muddle through, which will invariably get us involved in a series of violent conflicts over access to oil.

Instead, as a society, we need to think our way out this box. In a sense, these twin crises of shortage and global warming will serve as a kind of exam for our civilization, perhaps even a final exam. So: buy Roberts' book. Then Read, and Discuss.

Bill McKibben, a former staff writer for The New Yorker, is the author of The End of Nature, Wandering Home and Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age.

# **Collapse:**How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed

Jared Diamond Viking Publishing Hardcover, \$29.95

n a captivating tale of past and present societies, Pulitzer Prizewinning and bestselling author Jared Diamond implores readers to learn a thing or two from history. He intends for his audience to learn from collapsed societies like Easter Islanders, the Greenland Norse, the Anasazi and Mayans.

And as the title suggests, Diamond proposes that as members of modern society, we have some choices to make and lessons to learn—or the consequences will be monumental. The consequences Diamond refers to are not apocalyptic, but instead a world with considerably lower living standards, which would lead to the spread of disease and war, as well as a shortage of natural resources.

Diamond defines collapse as "a drastic decrease in human population size and/or political/economic/social complexity, over a considerable area, for an extended time. The phenomenon of collapses is thus an extreme form of several milder types of decline, and it becomes arbitrary to decide how drastic the decline of a society must be before it qualifies to be labeled as a collapse."

Collapse is an in-depth, cross-disciplinary study, which encompasses the fields of archaeology, anthropology, zoology, history and environmental science, among others. Diamond is a master teacher; his writing is thought-provoking, readable and easy to un-

derstand.

Diamond begins by using present-day Montana as a representation of the modern world,

where people are expe-

riencing a decline in living standards and shortage of natural resources. He then painstakingly makes disturbing comparisons to Easter Island, an isolated society "that destroyed itself by overexploiting its own resources."

"The parallels between Easter Island and the whole modern world are chillingly obvious. Thanks to globalization, international trade, jet planes and the Internet, all countries on Earth today share resources and affect each other, just as did Easter's dozen clans ... When the Easter Islanders got into difficulties, there was nowhere to which they could flee, nor where they could turn for help; nor shall we modern Earthlings have recourse elsewhere if our troubles increase."

Diamond examines the current conditions of much of the world, including China, Australia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He discusses how culture and ideals, politics, environment, living conditions, trade relations, technology, business and neighboring countries play integral roles in the success or failure of a society.

Of the five factors that may con-

Reviewed by Sherri Nelson Heifer Staff Writer

tribute to a society's collapse—environmental damage, climate change, hostile neighbors, friendly trade partners and a society's response to its environmental factors—Diamond suggests that the first four "may or may not prove significant for a particular society." However, Diamond emphasizes, the fifth factor—society's response—always proves significant. This, to him, is a reason for cautious optimism.

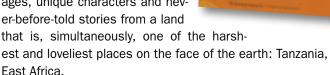
"My remaining cause for hope is another consequence of the globalized modern world's interconnectedness. Past societies lacked archaeologists and television ... . We turn on our television sets or radios or pick up our newspapers, and we see, hear, or read about what happened in Somalia or Afghanistan a few hours earlier. Our television documentaries and books show us in graphic detail why the Easter Islanders, Classic Maya, and other past societies collapsed. Thus, we have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of distant peoples and past peoples. That's an opportunity that no past society enjoyed to such a degree. My hope in writing this book has been that enough people will choose to profit from that opportunity to make a difference."

In other words, Diamond hopes that he is giving his readers and their respective societies the knowledge—and the motivation—to choose to succeed.

## In the Rain Shadow

Leland Kinsey University Press of New England Paperback, \$14.95

n essayist friend of mine once wrote that what people want most to read is something they haven't read before. Time and again, as I was reading Leland Kinsey's wonderful new collection of poems about Africa, I thought of this almost startlingly simple definition of literature. In the Rain Shadow abounds with original images, unique characters and nev-



WYME

RAIN SHADOW

In 1997, Kinsey, an acclaimed New England poet, was invited to Africa to visit his first cousin Erwin Kinsey, longtime project manager for Heifer Tanzania. For the next several weeks, the cousins, who were raised on neighboring Vermont dairy farms, traveled from Lake Victoria to Mount Meru, from the city of Arusha to the Indian Ocean, on an astonishing tour of one of the most fascinating and successful agricultural projects in Africa. In the Rain Shadow chronicles their remarkable journey.

It's impossible to read In the Rain Shadow and not come away with the strongest regard for the dedication and perseverance of Erwin Kinsey, who "drives, flies, boats, bikes, hikes" throughout Tanzania to bring dairy animals and technology to some of the most impoverished rural communities imaginable. It's a regard that is shared by Erwin's clients. "The Golden Farmer" describes a ceremony at a remote village, at which:

> My cousin was given a stool carved from a single block of ebony, a bark-cloth vest. and an elder's staff smoothed by hand with shards of glass.

In the meantime Erwin's wife, Esther, a nurse in Arusha, works to meet the nearly overwhelming needs of the Kin-



seys' struggling neighbors. "At the Gate," one of my favorite poems in the collection, describes the endless procession of Tanzanians who show up at their home for assistance, from "half a man ... on a wheeled board that held his remnant lower half," to a man whose child's leg was "accidentally amputated":

The boy was cutting fodder trees for cattle, his eight-year-old arm able to wield but not slow the necessary blade. She walks the mile up the road to rebandage, and worries about infection on return.

Like his literary predecessors Henry David Thoreau and Robert Frost, Leland Kinsey is an accomplished naturalist. He revels in marvelous natural images, from the mysterious desert owl with its "headlamp-like eyes," to the "city of fish" he discovers drying in the sun on the shore of Lake Victoria, to the "bloom of birds" bursting out of a multicolored gorge in the poem "Canyonlands":

> The swirl of startled flight against the strata outdoes the brightest parade down a skyscrapered street.

In the splendid title poem of the collection, "In the Rain Shadow of Mount Meru," there are the domesticated camels, with their "groaning calls," introduced to Tanzania by Heifer International and walked by native herders all the way south across desert and savannah from Kenya:

> In this place and time of vexation and drift the camels may be the one curative. source of milk, blood, meat in the long trek towards what comes next.

Howard Frank Mosher is the author of eight novels and a non-fiction travel memoir. His latest novel, Waiting for Teddy Williams, is a finalist for the Book Sense Book of the Year Award.

### **Gloom and Doom With a Sense of Humor®** www.grist.org

**Reviewed by Jan Cottingham** World Ark Editor

hat's the registered motto of Grist, maybe the only online environmental magazine that leaves the reader laughing. More importantly, it leaves the reader informed. It's irreverent but not irrelevant. Grist itself probably says it best:

"Let's face it: reading environmental journalism too often feels like eating your vegetables. Boiled. With no butter.

"But at Grist, we believe that news about green issues and sustainable living doesn't have to be predictable, demoralizing, or dull. ... And while we take our work seriously, we don't take ourselves seriously, because of the many things this planet is running out of, sanctimonious tree-huggers ain't one of them."

The self-deprecating style that makes Grist so much fun is the very quality that makes it so much more accessible than most of the other eat-your-spinach periodicals and websites. But don't be fooled: Grist delivers the goods. Its articles are well researched and authoritative, its writers knowledgeable and its commentary sharp.



The Daily Grist provides a roundup of environmental news from around the world and other media. This enthusiastic door-opening to other venues demonstrates Grist's self-assurance and sense of solidarity. Nobody has all the answers, and because every one of us is a passenger on Planet Earth, we all should be working to keep the Earth bus running.

One of the most reader-friendly departments at Grist is "Ask Umbra." Umbra Fisk is the Dear Abby for the environmentally aware. If you've ever pondered the conundrum of "paper or plastic?" she can provide advice that's both witty and useful. And in Grist's Ha. department, cartoonist, illustrator and best-selling author Suzy Becker (All I Need to Know I Learned from My Cat and I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse) cleverly draws her own conclusions.

So if "green" moralizing wears you down, check out Grist.

"Grist: it's gloom and doom with a sense of humor. So laugh now—or the planet gets it."

### **Find Your Match**



#### Join with your employer and multiply your charitable contributions

With an employer matching-gift program, your donation to Heifer can double or even triple. Find your match today—see if your employer is listed at heifer.org/employermatch, or ask your employer about matching-gift opportunities.

July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK 39 www.heifer.org

#### THE HEIFER CALENDAR



#### **CERES CENTER**

#### **June-August**

#### **SERVICE LEARNING**

Week-long "mission trips" for youth groups that include service to the Ceres Center and learning opportunities.

#### July 18-22 and Aug. 1-5 **DAY CAMP**

Hands-on program for youth ages 6-12 that includes farm-type service as well as cottage industries such as candle-making.

#### Sept. 30-Oct. 1

#### **YOUTH FOR HEIFER**

Ecumenical event for junior and senior high students to learn about Heifer's work.

#### Nov. 5

#### **FALL FEAST**

Fall outing for the whole family. Learn more about Heifer with a video and tour while dining on fall foods.

#### **Year-Round**

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Learn about Heifer and Ceres Education Center with a video, walking tour and hands-on experience.

#### **GLOBAL VILLAGE**

Get a taste of the real world with this overnight experience.

#### **MEETING FACILITY**

Have your meeting or gathering "down on the farm" and learn about Heifer's mission to end world hunger and poverty.

#### HEIFER RANCH

#### Sept. 24

**GLOBAL VILLAGE DAY** 

Tour the world in a day at our fall festival.

#### Summer

#### **GLOBAL VILLAGE 2**

A powerful two- or three-day

experience that connects participants with the realities of poverty and hunger.

#### **SERVICE LEARNING**

Commit to the value of serving others through interactive learning, community building and work projects. Two programs to choose from, the Journey and the Expedition.

#### Fall

#### **GLOBAL VILLAGE 2**

A two- or three-day experience that connects participants with the realities of poverty and hunger.

#### **GLOBAL EXPLORERS**

Explore the globe ecologically, culturally and geographically and connect with a community that is working to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. Meets social studies standards for grades 5-8.

#### **ADULT WORK GROUPS**

Fight hunger through service with these opportunities for adult groups.

#### **Year-Round**

#### **CONFERENCE AND RETREAT FACILITIES**

Heifer Ranch Conference Center provides a peaceful place that enables awareness, reflection and growth. Educational programs available.

#### **GLOBAL VILLAGE 2**

A powerful two- or three-day experience that connects participants with the realities of poverty and

#### **GLOBAL VILLAGE OVERNIGHT**

Build problem-solving skills while learning how to help the environment and the world.

#### **CHALLENGE COURSE**

Learn the ropes about teamwork and problem-solving skills.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Learn about Heifer and the Heifer

Ranch with a video, hayride and walking tour.

#### OVERLOOK FARM

#### July 4-Aug. 26

#### **SUMMER DAY CAMP**

Eight week-long sessions (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) for kids ages 6-17.

#### Sept. 8-11

#### **HEIFER UNIVERSITY**

A three-night program to provide participants with the tools to promote Heifer in their own communities.

#### Sept. 18-23

#### **FARM ANIMAL HOME-SCHOOL CAMP**

A residential camp for homeschooled youth ages 13-16.

#### Oct. 1-2

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Horse-drawn hayrides to "pick-yourown" pumpkins. Food and children's activities. Great family outing.

#### Oct. 9-14

#### "HARVEST YEARS" SERVICE **LEARNING**

Program for ages 55 and older. Assist with constructing baskets of farm products, do farm chores and learn about world hunger.

#### Year-Round

#### DAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Full- and half-day education programs for groups, with a video and tour. May include a peasant meal in the Global Village, a hunger education session, farm work and a horse-drawn hayride.

#### **MULTI-DAY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM**

Two- to five-day programs for groups that include farm work, sessions on hunger and agriculture and a Global Village overnight experience.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Learn about Heifer and Overlook Farm with a video, guided tour and hayride.

#### **HEIFER UNIVERSITY**

Heifer International offers Heifer University programs to give participants the tools to promote Heifer in their communities. Cost is \$195 per person (includes all meals, lodging, program fees and transportation to and from the airport when necessary).

Contact Rex Enoch at rexenoch@heifer.org or call (501) 889-5124.

#### September 8-11

**OVERLOOK FARM** Rutland, Mass.

#### September 29-Oct. 2

**HEIFER RANCH** 

Perryville, Ark.

#### October 20-26

**HOWELL NATURE CENTER** Howell, Mich.

#### **November 3-6**

**HEIFER U 201** 

Heifer Ranch

#### **INFORMATION**

#### **CERES CENTER**

Ceres, California (877) 841-7182 or cerescenter@heifer.org

#### HEIFER RANCH

Perryville, Arkansas Ranch Events Office (501) 889-5124 or ranch@heifer.org

#### **OVERLOOK FARM**

Rutland, Massachusetts (508) 886-2221 or overlook.farm@heifer.org

#### **HOWELL NATURE CENTER HEIFER GLOBAL VILLAGE**

Howell, Michigan (517) 546-0249 HCNC@howellnaturecenter.org

All locations are open year-round for drop-in visitors, or schedule a field trip for your group.

4 July/August 2005 | WORLD ARK

## Travel

#### WITH A PURPOSE

Join us on a Heifer Study Tour for a life-changing experience. You'll meet country staff and project participants and learn more about Heifer International's development work.

If you request information for a specific trip and don't hear from Heifer immediately, it's because the information is not yet available. Information is posted to the Heifer website as soon as possible. Those who have made inquiries will be contacted.

#### 2005 STUDY TOURS

#### **AVAILABLE TRIPS**

#### CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE

#### UKRAINE—Sept.14-23

Tour leader: Pat Stanley, Heifer International Northeast community relations coordinator, pat.stanley@heifer.org.

(508) 886-7900

#### ARMENIA-Sept. 16-30

Tour leader: Wendy Peskin, Heifer International Northeast regional director, wendy. peskin@heifer.org. (508) 886-7900

#### POLAND-Sept. 23-Oct.3

Tour leader: David Boothby, director of the Midwest Region of Heifer, david.boothby@heifer.org. (574) 642-3096

#### **WAIT-LISTED**

#### **AFRICA**

ZAMBIA/SOUTH AFRICA— Aug. 12-27

#### ASIA

CHINA-Sept. 22-Oct. 8

#### LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

PERU-Nov. 18-27

Tour leader: Pamela Stone, pamela.stone@heifer.org. (562) 431-4849

#### ASIA

#### VIETNAM/CAMBODIA—

Nov. 27-Dec. 13

Tour leader: Rosalee Sinn, dansingoat@aol.com. (508) 224-6853

#### **AFRICA**

#### **TANZANIA FOR FAMILIES—2006**

The family trip to Tanzania has been postponed until July 2006. Your interest in the trip has been greatly appreciated. For information on the 2006 trip please send a request to studytours@heifer.org. In the subject line, put 2006 Family Trip Tanzania.

#### I-FIQIED

#### NORTH AMERICA/HEIFER UNIVERSITY

#### **NAVAJO NATION—July 24-31**

Tour leader: Rex Enoch, rex.enoch@heifer.org



Study Tours are a gift from our country staff and project partners worlwide, who take participants into their lives.

#### **Costs and Lengths of Stay**

Prices include airfare (except where noted), accommodations, meals and local transportation.

#### Latin America and the Caribbean

10-14 days, \$2,000-\$4,000

#### Central and Eastern Europe

10-14 days, \$3,000-\$4,200

#### **Africa**

17-24 days, \$4,000-\$5,500

#### Asia and the South Pacific

14-21 days, \$3,500-\$5,000

#### North America (airfare not included)

5-10 days, \$800-\$1,500

Please check our website, www.heifer.org, and click on "Get Involved" for the most current information.

### "Grandma's Endowment" **LOOKING AFTER THE CHILDREN**

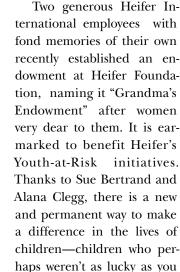
By Kelly Ford

HEIFER FOUNDATION COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

ecently, my 13-year-old daughter Drew received a report card that was less than stellar. Her grandparents (my parents) wanted to discuss the matter with her face-to-face, so they made the seven-hour drive to our home.

Drew's defenses were up, of course, until early in the conversation when my dad said the most perfect thing: "Drew, darling, we've come to scold you a little and love you a lot." And soon we were all dreaming out loud about her future and all the wonderful things she could do if she would just "hunker down."

Drew is lucky. She has two sets of grandparents who love her fiercely. There are many others like her who have been blessed by the love and care of grandparents. Perhaps, Reader, you are one of them. Of course, it was once commonplace for multiple generations of families to live together, helping one another, and today social changes are forcing an increasing number of grandparents to raise their grandchildren. Youth is a precarious passage, and grandparents are often a sturdy bridge.



or Drew or Sue and Alana.



Photo by Darcy Kiefel

#### "ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE"

ue's story is legendary at Heifer. Once a recipient, herself, of sheep from Heifer, Sue currently serves as vice president for Global Services, overseeing major worldwide initiatives such as gender equity, agroecology and HIV/AIDS. Youth at Risk is one of these. "This is a huge development issue," Sue says. "A growing number of children are at risk due to wars, AIDS, the sex trade. ... If we don't deal with these children now, we'll be dealing with them in 10 years as adults."

Sue speaks of great success in youth projects, from urban gardening in Chicago to cattle projects in the Delta. Orphanage projects in multiple countries have brought self-esteem and a brighter future to hundreds of children. And Heifer's animals are a natural "in" with young people, she says.

Sue decided to name the new endowment in honor of her grandmother, who helped raise Sue and other family members. "There was always room for one more," says Sue. "To this day, I don't know how she did it." Sue fondly remembers lettuce sandwiches with mayo and homemade pies. "She could make something out of nothing and it always tasted good." says Sue. "They didn't have much, but they made sure I went to school everyday and that I was neat and clean. She kept me in saddle shoes!"

Alana came to work for Heifer in 2000 and currently serves as liaison between the community relations office and regional offices. "Every child on the Earth has some kind of risk factor. There is always the need," she says, for programs that give children guidance and life skills. She adds that, in the end, the programs benefit not just the children, but also the people they come in contact with, a sort of Passing on the Gift one of Heifer's Cornerstones.

Alana's grandmother was Czechoslovakian and immigrated to the United States before World War II. She had trained in Austria to be a cook, and that's what Alana remembers most about her, "She was a

large woman, a very good cook and baked all week and weekend for her church. She had arthritis and was always in pain, but it didn't stop her."

Sue's and Alana's hope for the endowment is simple: "We hope other people who are really concerned about youth and have a special place in their hearts for grandmothers will join us."

The foundation is indebted to Sue and Alana for creating an endowment that will speak to many and bring hope to even more.

#### 2005 DAN WEST FELLOW

eifer Foundation is pleased to announce its 2005 Dan West Fellow Award winner, Dr. Marion Hammarlund of Riverside, Calif. In Dr. Hammarlund's honor, \$1,000 will be added to the Foundation's Dan West Education Endowment, a portion of which is made available each year to Heifer International to educate the public about the root causes of hunger and poverty. Dan West founded Heifer International in 1944.



Dr. Hammarlund

Dr. Hammarlund, a veterinarian, first became involved with Heifer in 1977, when he accompanied a shipment of goats to the Philippines. After that trip, Dr. Hammarlund started attending regional meetings and helping out wherever he could, including on Heifer projects in Bolivia and Mexico. From 1988 to 1995 he served as the Southwest District representative on the Heifer International Board of Directors. He also was one of the original trustees of Heifer Foundation. His extensive work with Heifer has included fund-raising and training.

We are indebted to Dr. Hammarlund for his contributions to Heifer International and Heifer Foundation, and are very pleased to be able to honor him with this award.

For more information on Dr. Hammarlund, please visit www. heiferfoundation.org.

#### SAVE THE DATE! -

#### Sept. 6-9 • Oct. 18-21

Come see Arkansas at its fall best. Be a guest of Heifer Foundation at Heifer Ranch in Perryville (an hour from Little Rock) during our planned charitable giving conferences. Combine a vacation with an education as you learn more about Heifer's work, personal finance and estate planning.

Guest speakers include Janet Ginn, president of Heifer Foundation; Ben Robinson, CIMA, Smith Barney; and attorney Charles Owen. The conference and lodging are free, but accommodations are limited, so reserve your space today.

For more information call (888) 422-1161 or visit us online at www.heiferfoundation.org. (Please complete and return this reply form.)

## Dear Friends at Heifer Foundation:

	ease send me more information n planned charitable giving options.
	nave already provided for Heifer n my will.
	ease send me a complimentary
	ease send me information on Grandma's Endowment."
Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State: Zip:	
Phone:	
E-ma	il:

www.heiferfoundation.org (888) 422-1161



Mail this form to:

Heifer Foundation
P.O. Box 727

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203



#### By Linda Elswick

Linda Elswick is
co-director of International
Partners for Sustainable
Agriculture and program
manager of the
Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
Initiative at Humane
Society International.

## A Seat at the Table

seat at the table. It's a cliché, a phrase that denotes clout, power, influence. But taken literally it means something quite different, though hardly unrelated. The table is the dinner table. The meaning is clear: Those who have influence get to eat.

In 1992, I traveled to Rio de Janeiro to find answers to a couple of questions: Who benefits? Who decides? I was one among thousands attending the historic Rio Earth Summit. I was among those pushing for changes in food and agriculture policy, changes that would provide "a seat at the table" in more ways than one.

Thousands of community groups, non-governmental organizations and government representatives alike attended the global conference to adopt Agenda 21—a "Blueprint for the 21st Century" that was to guide decisions about economic, environmental and social issues.

For me, this summit was an introduction to people-centered development. Here I met the people speaking up for an agricultural system that would keep them on the land, enable them to feed their families and help them help themselves.

Banners and booths representing organizations from all over the world, each touting ways to help people and the environment, were surrounded by military guards with machine guns. Messages of peace required armed security. Never before had a United Nations conference been so open, but not without worries about the risks such openness might entail.

Hundreds of people from around the world—speaking several different languages—gathered in steamy Tent 33, the meeting place to address agriculture and food security. Our task? Draft a plan to end world hunger that used sustainable agriculture.

Money for translators was short, and as we tried to get to know one another, it was touch-and-go for a while. We struggled with complex ideas that would have been so easy to convey had we known each other's language. Concepts like animal welfare, keeping people on the land, farming sustainably and paying producers a fair price for their products became increasingly difficult to articulate.

But late at night, every night, we encountered tangible reminders of what we were trying to accomplish. At the outdoor restaurants that are so much a part of Rio, street children gathered around us, waiting silently for any scraps of food we might share. No seat at the table for them. And when I returned to my meetings, I remembered the children.

After two weeks of discussion, our colleagues were pleased to acknowledge that "we never met anyone from your part of the world who thought like us." We agreed that food security was a basic human right. We agreed to work toward ensuring that every person had access to safe, high-quality food, that agriculture was sustainable when it was humane, ecologically sound, economically viable, socially equitable, culturally appropriate and based on a holistic scientific approach.

Years later, we're still working to ensure a seat at the table for those most affected by want and those most in touch with the real needs of families and communities. The parting words of my summit friends? "Don't forget us." We haven't forgotten—not them, not their animals, not their right to determine who has a seat at the table.

Nor, of course, have I forgotten the children.



### Coffee for a Better World

Heifer International is proud to present Heifer Hope Blend, a Fair Trade Certified  $^{\text{TM}}$  organic coffee. Many of the beans for this blend are grown by small family farms in Guatemala, where Heifer is providing training in sustainable agriculture. When you buy this coffee, you get great taste and a chance to help Heifer in its fight against hunger. While Heifer provides families with a goat or cow, Green Mountain Coffee

Roasters® provides a market for their coffee beans. The result is an economically stronger community and coffee that is grown in an environmentally sustainable way.



Green Mountain Coffee Roasters is proud to support the efforts of Heifer International, improving the quality of life in coffee-growing communities around the world.

Call or go on-line today to order Heifer Hope Blend coffee and join the thousands of others who have their coffee delivered right to their door. Give the gift of hope to family, friends and yourself.

\$8.69 plus shipping & handling



Call Heifer at (800)422-0474 to place your order or contact Green Mountain Coffee Roasters:
(888) TRY-GMCR (888-879-4627)
www.GreenMountainCoffee.com/Heifer



## What If We Ended World Hunger?

\$13 billion a year – that's what it would take to provide basic health and nutrition needs for the world's poorest people.

Sound impossible?

Discover More >

**OUR WORK** 

**GET INVOLVED** 

GIVE

**LEARN** 

**INSIDE HEIFER** 

The Most Important
GIFT CATALOG
in the World
Give a Gift Animal

Read something inspiring and worthwhile in World Ark? Share it with your friends! Now you can easily access World Ark stories by visiting World Ark online at www.heifer.org/worldark.

We offer online exclusive features:

- Interactive maps, slideshows and videos of Heifer's work around the world.
- Breathtaking images by an award-winning photojournalist.
- Stories that will engage and educate you about hunger and sustainability.
- Tips you can take to help end world hunger.
- Information about how your gift helps men, women, boys, girls and communities become self-reliant.

Visit us often at *www.heifer.org/worldark* to see new online stories and learn more about Heifer's work to end hunger and save the Earth.

#### NEW FOR TEACHERS FROM HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

## GET IT!

Global Education To Improve Tomorrow!

#### For Grades 6-8

FREE Standards-based curriculum and supplementary materials!

GET IT! focuses on the role middle-schoolers play in the global economy and how their choices impact the environment and people across the world. This global education program highlights the links between Latin America and the United States.

Subject Areas Covered
Geography, Economics, History,
Science, Language Arts

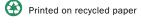
#### **ALSO AVAILABLE:**

Read to Feed's "Lessons from a Village Called Earth" for 3rd/4th and 5th/6th Grade Curriculums

Sponsored by



TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.READTOFEED.ORG



RP1075



Heifer Project International 1015 Louisiana St. Little Rock, AR 72202/USA Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Heifer International